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THE TIMES

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Community charge reform is key to challenger's strategy to win back Conservative voters

Heseltine flings down gauntlet for leadership

By Robin Oakley and Philip Webster

MICHAEL Heseltine finally announced yesterday that he was to challenge the prime minister for the leadership of the Conservative party, and immediately wooed worried MPs by promising to reform the poll tax.

The former defence secretary initiated the most serious battle in Tory ranks since 1975, saying he had a better prospect than Margaret Thatcher of winning back lost Conservative voters.

His plans for the poll tax, outlined in an interview with *The Times*, would involve building in the principle of ability to pay, and might shift education spending to central government.

In the interview, Mr Heseltine complained that Mrs Thatcher had allowed the Conservative party in Parliament to become divided and he appealed to both ends of the party, saying: "I believe in people of talent and energy finding opportunity regardless of the philosophical input they give to debate. The responsibilities of leadership are to blend this fusion of talents, to harness it and enthuse it rather than to exploit it." As he spoke, there was a growing feeling at Westminster that Mrs Thatcher would find it hard to win on the first ballot next Tuesday. Although her supporters maintained that she would stay to fight the second round if necessary, MPs on all wings of the party felt that a failure to secure victory in the first vote might irretrievably damage her authority and lead to her standing down. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, was emerging as the candidate who would then be pressed forward to prevent Mr Heseltine taking the crown.

Mr Hurd repeated yesterday that he could not see the circumstances in which he could come forward. However, if Mrs Thatcher was not in the field he would inevitably be pressed to throw his hat into the ring, and most MPs believe he would agree. Senior MPs were predicting that there would be many abstentions among those who believe that Mrs Thatcher is too damaged to take the Conservatives into the election, and would prefer Mr Hurd to Mr Heseltine.

Mr Heseltine's campaign team yesterday reported an increase in support for him since Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech on Tuesday. They are predicting "well over" 100 positive votes for him. He would require 159 votes to be certain of forcing a second ballot.

The battleground for the contest will be Europe, but the key point with Tory MPs may be his declaration that if he became prime minister, he would order an "immediate and fundamental review of the poll tax". Mr Heseltine's opponents acknowledged that this promise was a shrewd stroke, fully justified by his long-held opposition to it and his absence from the cabinet that brought it in.

Announcing his decision to stand from his home in Belgravia yesterday, Mr Heseltine denied that a challenge would damage the party's general election aims. "I do not accept I have split the Conservative Party. Geoffrey Howe's resignation revealed divisions which would not go away without a contest of this sort." But he declared that if Mrs Thatcher was to emerge victorious and to lead the Tories into the next election he would back her to the hilt. "I would rather have a cabinet run by Mrs Thatcher than a government dominated by the influence of the trade unions."

Throughout the day, senior Conservatives rallied to Mrs Thatcher's cause. Mr Hurd called Mr Heseltine's challenge "a mistake — from the point of view of the government, the party and the country". Lord Whitelaw, the former deputy prime minister, said: "I believe profoundly that at this time our country badly needs her courageous, determined leadership as prime minister."

Support for Mr Heseltine came from Sir Barney Hayhoe, MP for Brentford and Isleworth, who said: "It is becoming increasingly difficult to envisage how the party could truly unite behind Margaret Thatcher, although I am convinced that unity will be achieved under a new leader." John Lee, MP for Pendle, said it was time for a new leader and a fresh start.

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STEPHEN MARKESON

Trusting to luck: Anne Heseltine gives a hopeful gesture to the press as she joins her husband on the doorstep of their Belgravia home yesterday

New charges in Guildford case

Three Surrey detectives involved in questioning the Guildford four are to be prosecuted for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, the DPP announced.

Up to a dozen current and former officers were named in a report sent to the DPP some weeks ago by a team of Avon and Somerset officers investigating the case.... Page 28

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Media menagerie stalks elusive prey

By Alan Hamilton

HARDLY anyone noticed the Princess Royal drive through Belgravia at 10.45 yesterday morning on her way to an engagement in Belgrave Square. All attention was on the vast menagerie of bears and monkeys (reporters and photographers) and other media animals jockeying for a foot on a doorstep to catch any whisper of the alternative palace revolution.

Straws floated early in the morning wind. At 8.37am Michael Mates, MP, arrived *chez* Heseltine and was asked by the menagerie if he was confident. Confident about what they did not say. Mr Mates, who has clearly visited zoos before, announced he was confident of getting a decent breakfast, picked up the Heseltines' copy of *The Times* with its portentous headline containing the words "Howe", "attack" and "gasping", from the doorstep, and disappeared within.

PC Paul Donaghy, who looked about 12 but is in fact 22, maintained a solitary but good-humoured guard on the door. He seemed happier with his day's assignment than he would have been policing a Millwall home game.

Not much then happened — *except, presumably, for* breakfast — until soon after ten, when the favoured political correspondents of radio, television and the Press Association arrived in response to an invitation to receive the breathless word in the Heseltines' first floor sitting room.

Mr Mates then reappeared to address the unfavoured multitude on the pavement. "He is not going out this morning. There will be an announcement shortly. He is very busy with the statement

Continued on page 28, col 6

Pressure on Israel to attack

From Richard Owen in Jerusalem

FEARS are growing in Israel that the prolonged Gulf confrontation is not only making Israel vulnerable to an Iraqi missile attack as President Saddam Hussein is "backed into a corner" but is also leading to a crumbling of Israel's previously secure borders with Jordan and southern Lebanon.

These pressures could push Israeli leaders towards contingency plans for a strike against Iraq if the United States fails to act decisively or if the Middle East balance appears to be tilting irrevocably against Israel.

Israeli military officials said hesitations by the US meant war against Iraq was unlikely until the end of December at the earliest. But war could be triggered by a "miscalculation", leaving Israel to cope with an chemical weapons attack as President Saddam attempted to turn the conflict into an Arab-Israeli one.

Officials believe Iraq has

Continued on page 28, col 2

Congress awakes, page 11

Gorbachev 'has lost the support of his army'

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

THE Soviet power structure appeared in tatters last night after parliamentary deputies forced an emergency debate on the state of the country, and a military officer said President Gorbachev had lost the support of the army. Mr Gorbachev will address parliament tomorrow in an attempt to avert the crisis.

Adding to the confusion, an open letter from 22 respected figures predicted civil war unless the president took "firm and urgent measures" to avert it, and the government announced price rises on a range of what it classified as non-essential goods to take effect from today.

Lieutenant-Colonel Viktor Alksnis, who had attended a meeting on Tuesday between Mr Gorbachev and more than 1,000 military men, told amazed parliamentary deputies that the president's appearance had been "a dialogue of the blind with the blind". The president, he said, "yesterday lost his army".

Lieutenant-Colonel Alksnis ruled out the possibility of a coup, saying the military lacked a leader, and predicted that the army would resort to force first in the republics.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alksnis's views were echoed by Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, the retired chief of staff and now a military adviser to President Gorbachev, who said in a newspaper article that the army would fight to save socialism and prevent the disintegration of the country.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alksnis addressed a parliament already in disgruntled and resentful mood. Deputies had returned from a 10-day recess during which they had been bombarded with complaints about shortages and the breakdown of authority. They had returned to find that the scheduled discussion of next year's plan and budget had been postponed until next week and that Mr Gorbachev had no plans to tell them about his meeting with Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation president, even though Mr Yeltsin had given the Russian parliament his version the day before.

There were angry calls for Mr Gorbachev to appear and give an explanation. Many demanded an emergency debate on the "state of the nation" in view of the "impending catastrophe".

The same language of desperation peppered yesterday's "open letter" to the president by 22 respected public figures who are on the editorial board of the weekly *Moscow News*. They included the economists Oleg Bogomolov and Pavel Bunich, the democratic parliamentarian Galina Starovoitova, and the Democratic Platform leader, Vyacheslav Shostakovsky.

Their letter warned of the catastrophe facing the country and said that the only way to avoid it was to introduce total glasnost; to make the Soviet Union's 15 republics genuinely sovereign; to return the land to the peasants and disband unviable collective farms and replace the government with a "round table" coalition of national unity.

Yesterday's announcement of price increases covers goods described as "luxuries".

Arms treaty, page 13

Alleged IRA suspect is extradited

By Edward Gorman and David Young

DESMOND Ellis, aged 38, the first alleged IRA suspect to be extradited to mainland Britain, who has been on hunger strike for 36 days, was last night remanded in custody for eight days at Bow Street magistrates' court in London charged with conspiracy to cause explosions and possessing explosives. He lost his appeal against extradition in the Supreme Court in Dublin only hours earlier.

Five Irish judges unanimously rejected submissions by his lawyers that there are in Irish law no offences corresponding to the conspiracy charge he faces in Britain, that the delay in issuing extradition warrants was unfair and that Mr Ellis would not get a fair trial in a British court.

The judges also dismissed an application for a delay in the execution of the extradition order so that lawyers could make a last appeal on Mr Ellis's behalf to Ray Burke, the Irish justice minister.

At the crowded courtroom in Dublin, relatives of Mr Ellis, a former television repairman from Finglas in north Dublin, wept after the judgment. They were comforted by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, who described the verdict as shameful. The failure of Mr Haughey's government to intervene after the verdict had effectively sentenced Mr Ellis to death, he said.

The case was the first under the 1987 Extradition Act and was being watched carefully on both sides of the Irish Sea.

Mr Ellis, who has lost two stone and is losing his eyesight, was taken by helicopter from the Curragh military hospital to Baldonnel military air base on the outskirts of Dublin to be flown out by the RAF.

After his Bow Street appearance, in a wheelchair, he was taken to Paddington Green Police Station where he will be held, although he may later be transferred to hospital facilities within one of London's prisons.

He will appear next week at Arbour Square magistrates' court, East London, to face the charges against him.

Scarborough returns to electronic dark ages

By Peter Davenport

EVEN for an out-of-season Yorkshire seaside resort, Scarborough was unusually quiet yesterday. There was not the ring of a telephone, the chatter of a telex nor the hum of a facsimile machine to be heard. A big fire in an automatic telephone exchange led to the failure of all 23,000 lines in the town, including all emergency services, the coastguard and the public utilities.

In a few devastating minutes Scarborough regressed from an era of instant communications to the electronic dark ages. The town of 70,000 people was effectively cut off from the outside world, leaving emergency planners having to introduce a make-shift system of communication to hold together the fabric of everyday life. It may be a week before normal service can be restored, although it is hoped to reinstate 999 calls sooner.

The communications failure was more comprehensive than that catered for in local authority emergency planning. A document entitled Scheme for *Major Peacetime Disasters or Other Emergencies* produced by Scarborough Council as part of its statutory duties in 1987 will have to be rewritten and the lessons passed on to other local authorities.

Makeshift measures were hurriedly introduced by police and council planners who initially had to communicate with human runners between their headquarters. A rota of civic cars, including the mayorial Jaguar, was posted to Oliver's Mount, the highest point in the town, where a mobile phone could be used to relay urgent messages by two-way radio. Scarborough is a poor reception area and mobile telephone users have to seek high ground. Yesterday many of those people were parked on Oliver's Mount conducting business from their driving seat.

Police, fire service and ambulance vehicles were positioned at 21 fixed points and their locations broadcast so that people would know where to run for help. The council's fleet of refuse vehicles were recruited. Their crews were ordered to make their radios available for emergencies and the hospital cancelled all non-urgent operations to clear beds for cases who could not contact GPs.

Even the voice-link from the council's emergency planning room to County Hall in Northallerton, to be used in the event of war, failed. Some bank cash machines were knocked out and computer systems linked to the BT network failed.

The fire, believed to have been caused by an electrical fault, destroyed digital processing equipment which handles 12 million calls a year. It was installed seven years ago as part of £3million improvements at the Northway telephone exchange.

John Trebble, Scarborough council's chief executive, said: "It is amazing how you come to rely on a telephone system and take it for granted. Then something like this happens and you realise just how vulnerable you can become. We have to strive to avoid putting all our equipment into one location. British Telecom need to centralise but there should be some capacity to avoid a crisis like this. If it can happen here, it can happen anywhere."

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The question over Thatcher: can she lead party to victory?

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE essence of Michael Heseltine's case is that he is a winner and Mrs Thatcher is now a loser; that he can take the Conservative party to victory in the next election and that she cannot.

It is a particularly bold claim to make against a prime minister who has fought three elections and won them all. He is demanding that she should be denied the chance of trying again to confirm that record before she is deposed. Mr Heseltine is being both honest and sensible, however, in pitching his case in those terms. For all the fuss about Europe, this contest will not be decided on policy points.

Members of the cabinet confirm that Mrs Thatcher is now the issue. Winnability not ideology is the basis of Mr Heseltine's window display. That is why he is concentrating on the poll tax, which is seen by many Tory MPs as the single biggest obstacle to their retaining their seats at the next election.

The question is whether the prime minister has now become a hindrance to her party's hopes of turning round Labour's big opinion poll lead and winning the next election. She will remember that it was not a surge of enthusiasm for what later came to be known as Thatcherism — monetarism, privatisation and popular capitalism — which brought her victory against Edward Heath in 1975. It was the feeling in the party, after two rejections by the electorate, that he was a loser and that a new face was needed at the top.

What does that last Tory leadership contest tell us about the way this one will be fought? First, that surprises do happen. A Harris opinion poll on February 3, 1975, the day before the first ballot, showed that seven out of ten Conservative voters were in favour of Mr Heath and that Mrs Thatcher trailed behind William Whitelaw too, even though he was not standing in that first round. The unctuous National Union had reported that four fifths of the constituencies wanted Mr Heath to stay on, but MPs gave her 130 votes and him 119. With 16 for Sir Hugh Fraser that meant that more than half had voted against Mr Heath and he was done for.

Second, the contest showed the danger of playing bandwagon tactics. Mr Heath's campaign team spread the word that he would win comfortably on the first ballot, seeking to pull waverers aboard for the sake of being on the winning side. As a result, the former members of his government who wanted a change but who planned to vote for Mr Heath to ensure that he had a respectable vote were emboldened to switch. Those who wanted to be rid of him but were not too keen on what they then knew of Josephite/Thatcherite policies believed that he was heading for first-round victory before they could get their chosen champions into the contest. So they voted for Mrs Thatcher.

Another lesson is that elections never turn out to be as clean as the participants promise. There is no reason to believe that the Tory machine had anything to do with the character assassination journalism already being practised against Thatcher opponents. Indeed, Mrs Thatcher has specifically condemned it.

She remembers only too well, no doubt, the "greedy food-hoarder" play made last time over her advice to pensioners to stock plenty of tinned food in a time of inflation, and the sneering at the temerity of a grocer's daughter with a second-class degree in chemistry thinking that she might lead a great party.

As the challenger, Mr Heseltine has one great advantage this time that Mrs Thatcher did not have in 1975. When she said "I am trying to represent the deep feelings of those many thousands of rank-and-file Tories in the country — and potential Conservative voters too — who feel let down by our party and find themselves unrepresented in a political vacuum" it could legitimately be asked why she had not walked out of the cabinet that had done that letting down and created that vacuum.

Mr Heseltine, however, did walk out. He did warn about her style of cabinet government.

What Mrs Thatcher has to decide now is whether to play things soft on Europe in the hope of anchoring the waverers who might otherwise drift off to Mr Heseltine, or whether to continue her post-Rome rhetoric in the hope of maximising the support in her natural constituency within the party.

For her it has to be cool, calm business as usual. Whether that is enough in these feverish times we shall see in a few days.

Heseltine pledges early poll tax review if he wins

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday commited himself to carrying out an immediate and fundamental review of the community charge if he becomes leader of the Conservative party.

A key part of his reforms would be the introduction of a system of "banding" under which the rich would pay more and the poor much less in poll tax. Mr Heseltine is on record as saying that the wealthy, in particular higher rate taxpayers, "those who have prospered mightily under this government", must contribute more towards the cost of local services.

He also wants to see changes in the distribution of government grant to local authorities in order to iron out regional variations in poll tax.

Interviewed on *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4 yesterday, Mr Heseltine suggested that education might be taken out of the control of local authorities and funded largely from Whitehall in an effort to keep poll tax bills down. Much of the work on Mr Heseltine's plans has already been done by his own supporters and officials at the environment department.

In 1988 Michael Mates, one of his close associates, tabled an amendment to the Local Government Finance Act which would have introduced banding of bills according to ability to pay.

In order to provide ministers with the ammunition to defeat the amendment in the Commons, senior civil servants prepared an exhaustive evaluation of the scheme, which would be available to Mr Heseltine.

The department also looked into changes in the method used to calculate standard spending assessments for councils, which form the basis of grant distribution, as part of this year's poll tax review. The poll tax has long been a key concern of the former defence secretary, who regards it as one of the biggest threats to the survival of a Conservative government.

He has urged that councils who wish to spend above government limits should be required to stand for re-election on their spending plans and has called for more help for people whose poll tax bills are significantly higher than their rates.

In May Mr Heseltine said that the government must work to lower average poll tax bills. High community charges would only bolster Labour's fortunes and its campaign for a return to rates.

There is, however, some scepticism in local government circles about the workability of his proposals. One senior financial officer said last night: "Banding looks good but in practice it is a nightmare.

"You need to involve the Inland Revenue to determine who can afford to pay and even when you have done that there will be massive leaps between bands, each one of which will create its own poverty trap."

Without a commitment to return control of business rates to councils, many treasurers believe that Mr Heseltine's reforms would not ease the burden on poll tax payers.

DES JENSON

Margaret Thatcher smiling yesterday after Michael Heseltine's formal challenge

Intrigue and strife mark past battles

By RAY CLANCY

CONSERVATIVE party leadership challenges have not always been fought in the limelight of publicity that surrounds Mr Heseltine's attempt, but since the second world war they have been regularly mounted against a background of intrigue and internal strife.

In the 1940s and 1950s leaders were chosen by a system in which potential successors were sounded out within the parliamentary party. But according to John Barnes, lecturer in government at the London School of Economics, before a leadership challenge the sitting leader had to be persuaded to go.

"In those days it was a bit like the black spot episode in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* as one politician after another served notice to quit on Sir Winston Churchill, who fended off such challenges as leader of the opposition in 1947 and 1949," Mr Barnes said.

After the Conservatives won the 1951 election politicians continued to "gang up" against Churchill, who resigned in 1955. Eden was then in office for two years before resigning on grounds of ill health, though a debate still continues over whether there were moves to force him out.

"If Eden had not been ill after Suez he would have been pushed out," Mar Barnes said. "At the time Harold Macmillan and Rab Butler were working closely together. Macmillan's diaries later showed it was clear that he thought Eden would have to go."

Rab Butler was widely regarded by the party at large as being the obvious successor but it was Macmillan who became prime minister, as he was preferred by the Cabinet. "The cabinet agreed almost to a man that Macmillan was the one and a large number of backbenchers decided they would not have Butler at any price. In this leadership contest we see the cabinet having a disproportionate influence on the outcome. They really made sure they had the man that they wanted."

After 1962 when Macmillan dismissed seven cabinet ministers, plots against him emerged but it was illness which "forced the leadership contest which was to become the first where the views of the mass party were formally collected", Mr Barnes said.

Lord Home was judged the most acceptable to everyone in this, "the last of the old-style leadership contests."

After the Conservatives lost the 1964 general election, a new leadership electoral process was adopted, allowing for three ballots and it was used for the first time in 1965 after Home resigned.

On July 28, 1965 Edward Heath became the first leader of the party to be elected under the new process. In December 1974, two general elections defeats, the leadership rules were changed slightly but significantly so that the ballot result depended on a percentage of all those able to vote rather than a percentage of those who voted. "Abstentions counted," Mr Barnes said.

Margaret Thatcher, an outsider, beat Mr Heath by 130 to 119. He stepped down. In the second ballot Mrs Thatcher won decisively.

"The lesson from this is that a succesful candidate in this day and age has to take his chances at the first ballot," Mr Barnes said.

Leadership battles within the Labour party have been no less spectacular but less frequent because the party adopted an electoral system to elect leaders at an earlier stage. The most significant change was in the early 1980s when the trade unions became involved in the process.

Significant challenges for the Labour leadership have included threats to Clement Attlee in 1947. "Te heavy boys had decided Attlee must go," said Mr Barnes, and Hugh Gaitskill took over. He was challenged twice in the 1960s and when he died in 1963 there was no obvious candidate. Harold Wilson won the leadership despite the nomination of James Callaghan splitting the vote to the right of the party.

Thirteen-month countdown to fight for MPs' hearts

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine's challenge for the Conservative party leadership comes after 13 months in which five cabinet ministers have resigned and amid growing gloom on the back benches about Tory prospects at the next general election.

Labour's lead in the opinion polls and doubts about whether the economy will improve early enough to revive Tory fortunes have deepened the despondency. Although Mrs Thatcher's supporters hoped her convincing victory against Sir Anthony Meyer in last year's contest would end speculation about her leadership, it has continued.

In the wings hovered one man, Mr Heseltine. Repeatedly emphasising that he could see no circumstances in which he would challege the prime minister for the leadership, he assiduously cultivated backbench MPs and calculated his chances of succeeding Mrs Thatcher.

Most MPs thought it unlikely that Mr Heseltine would mount a serious challenge. However, the latest resignation from the government galvanised Mr Heseltine and his campaign team into reassessing their prospects.

The troubled 13 months began with the resignation of Nigel Lawson as Chancellor of the Exchequer in October last year. Several weeks later Mrs Thatcher beat Sir Anthony strengthening her authority "for some time to come", according to George Younger, her campaign manager.

In January Norman Fowler resigned as employment secretary so that he could spend more time with his young daughters and in March it was announced that Peter Walker, the Welsh secretary, was to leave the cabinet.

Later that month there was renewed speculation about Mrs Thatcher's leadership after Labour overturned a 14,654 Conservative majority to win the Mid Staffordshire by-election. Ministers rallied to support the prime minister after opinion polls showed Labour enjoying a record lead.

In the summer the prime minister had to accept the resignation of Nicholas Ridley, the trade and industry secretary, after he had accused Germany of trying to take over Europe. The Tories suffered a further blow when they lost the safe seat of Eastbourne. The party was braced for a poor showing in by-elections at Bootle and Bradford North when, on November 1, Sir Geoffrey Howe quit the government in protest at the prime minster's attitude to the European Community.

On Tuesday Sir Geoffrey delivered a damning indictment on Mrs Thatcher's policy towards Europe and style of government. The savage attack was the catalyst that triggered Mr Heseltine into standing for the leadership.

How the winner is chosen

Nominations for the Tory leadership contest close at noon today, with voting taking place by secret ballot in a committee room of the House of Commons next Tuesday.

On the first ballot a winning candidate must receive a majority of the 372 MPs entitled to vote plus 15 per cent more than any other candidate. A winner must, therefore, receive 187 votes of those entitled to vote combined with a 56-vote lead, 15 per cent of those entitled to vote.

If the votes given to a challenger plus those abstaining amount to 159, Mrs Thatcher would fail to win on the first round. The contest would then move to a second round. Nominations from the first round become void and others can enter the fray with nominations closing on November 22 and voting on November 27. On the second ballot, a candidate must obtain an overall majority of those entitled to vote that is at least 187 votes.

If nobody manages victory on the second ballot, the three highest placed candidates go to a third ballot on November 29th.

Younger primes his team

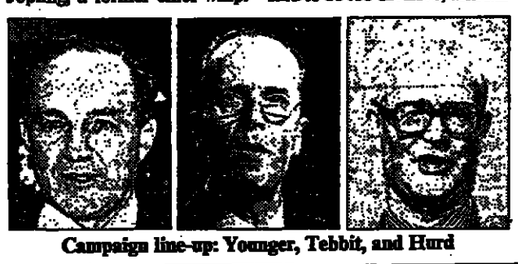
By RICHARD FORD POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

JUST six days ago George Younger indicated that his business commitments would make it very difficult for him to run a campaign to ensure Margaret Thatcher's re-election as leader of the Conservative party. Over the weekend, however, as the likelihood of a contest increased, Mr Younger was persuaded to change his mind

Mr Younger, a former defence secretary who is chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, is to co-ordinate Mrs Thatcher's campaign team. Her choice is likely to have been influenced by his effort last year when he successfully ran her campaign against Sir Anthony Meyer.

Widely respected at Westminster as a man who plays a "straight bat", he has already admitted that his team has a lot of work to do.

In that team are Norman Tebbit, a former chairman of the party, John Moore, who was dismissed as social security secretary by Mrs Thatcher, and Michael Jopling, a former chief whip.



Campaign line-up: Younger, Tebbit, and Hurd

The inclusion of Mr Tebbit and Mr Moore was seen at Westminster as an attempt by the prime minister to ensure the allegiance of traditional allies on the right of the party that Mr Heseltine has been courting in recent months.

Others at Westminster questioned the involvement of both men. Mr Tebbit was said to be too divisive, and Mr Moore too minor a figure in the party. As a former chief whip, Mr Jopling, the Conservative MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, joins Mr Younger in offering solid reassurance to the party.

Within hours of Mr Heseltine's announcement, cabinet ministers offered their support for the prime minister. Yesterday Douglas Hurd, John Major, John Wakeham and Michael Howard publicly backed her.

During the next few days cabinet ministers will meet small groups of backbenchers hoping to ensure that they back the prime minister. Her team will stress her stature as an international statesman and the danger of changing leaders when there is the threat of conflict in the Gulf.

Contest 'inevitable' since Westland

By PHILIP WEBSTER CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine may have pressed the go button only yesterday but a well-oiled machine has been in place for several years in readiness for the moment he chose to open his leadership campaign.

Norman Tebbit, his arch opponent in that venture, said yesterday that the challenge now under way was inevitable from the day he walked out of the cabinet over the Westland affair. It has seemed that way to most of Westminster.

Although activity has increased to a frenzied pace in recent days, suggestions of a sudden head-counting exercise beginning only last weekend are wide of the mark. The Heseltine camp has over the past couple of years been told by about 80 MPs that they would back him in a leadership contest. Since Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation Mr Heseltine's team has been checking that those votes can still be counted upon, and attempting to add to the tally.

Aware of the dangers of raising expectations too high, Michael Mates, in charge of the nuts and bolts of the campaign, has been cautious in his predictions. All the signs were, however, that the initial forecast of 100 pledged votes was being steadily enlarged yesterday.

Over the next few days a series of former cabinet ministers are likely to publicly back Mr Heseltine, his supporters said yesterday, and David Howell, chairman of the all-party foreign affairs committee and the former energy secretary, indicated his support.

Mr Mates, known by MPs as "The Colonel", and Keith Hampson, MP for Leeds North West, are the two figures most commonly associated with the Heseltine campaign. One of his key advisers over recent years however has been Sir Neil Macfarlane, the former sports minister who served with him at the environment department.

Ironically Sir Neil was one of the late Airey Neave's lieutenants in the team that successfully propelled Margaret Thatcher to the leadership in 1975. Now he finds himself in the opposite camp, and says: "I only wish we did not have to have this campaign. The outstanding service the prime minister has given the party and country is well recognised.

Heseltine's men: Mates, Hampson and Macfarlane

Bruising contest elicits cries of 'foul'

By JAMIE DETTMER

BACKBENCH MPs are generally far from being shrinking violets but the recent roughhouse tactics employed by supporters of Margaret Thatcher to try to see off a possible leadership challenge from Michael Heseltine has shocked many of them.

There have already been three incidents that have led to cries of foul from the Heseltine camp.

Over a week ago senior officers from Mr Heseltine's Henley constituency were persuaded by a regional party agent that it was important for them to reply to their MP's open letter about the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Even before the officers met to draft a reply in the presence of the agent, Donald Stringer, several journalists received telephone calls from Conservative Central Office suggesting that Mr Heseltine was going to be rebuked by his local party. Shortly after the reply was drafted, two members of Mr Heseltine's constituency who opposed any leadership challenge rang political correspondents to give a version of the meeting that was at odds with the recollection of their local colleagues.

Conservative Central Office yesterday declined to answer questions about what has become known as Henleygate.

Two other incidents bordering on a dirty tricks campaign came in the form of personal attacks in tabloid newspapers on MPs opposed to Mrs Thatcher. Last weekend the *Daily Express* disclosed several personal details about the complicated private life of Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton North, after he called for Mrs Thatcher to step down. On Tuesday *The Sun* followed up with a front page devoted to rubbishing, in the parlance of tabloid newspapers, five MPs said to support Mr Heseltine.

Most backbenchers believe that the two press assaults sprung from an over-zealous wish to protect the prime minister, Mrs Thatcher condemned *The Sun's* coverage in the Commons. Yesterday, central office said of its role during the leadership challenge: "We become neutral from this moment on."

Asked if that meant it had not been neutral last week and earlier this week, a spokesman said: "Of course not. There are now two campaign teams and offices. Do you want our team's number." Our's? "Yes, you know, Mrs Thatcher's."

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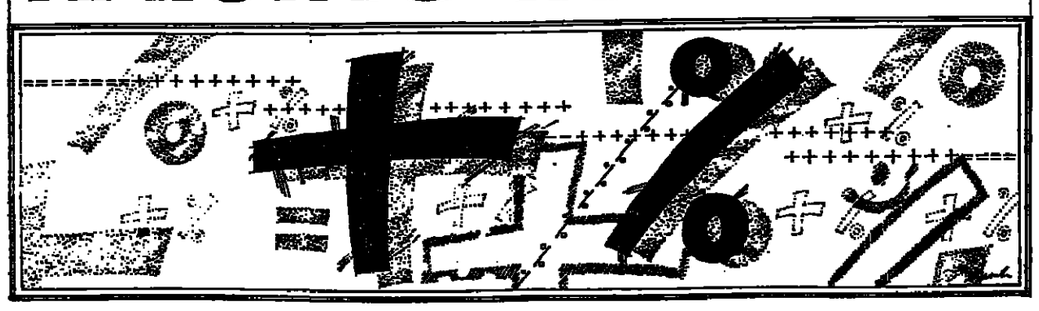

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Officials stay loyal to Thatcher, even in marginal seats

By Staff Reporters

CONFIRMATION of a leadership battle was met with a mixture of relief and irritation by party workers in Conservative marginal seats, where a percentage point change in the polls is closely monitored.

Even where the Tories have been under strong pressure from the impact of the poll tax, loyalty to the party leader prevailed. In York, where Conal Gregory clings on to his seat by a mere 147 votes, John Hardwick, the constituency party chairman, said the members remain committed to Margaret Thatcher's leadership. "We would not be happy with Michael Heseltine and do feel this is all rather damaging and divisive. We are 100 per cent behind the prime minister," he said.

Jim Cooper, chairman at Chester, where a swing of 4.6 percentage points would dislodge Peter Morrison, the prime minister's parliamentary private secretary, puts his faith in the short time span of political memories. "While it is easy to criticise because of the damage it might do to the party, it always surprises me how quickly things are forgotten in politics. In four or five months it will be over and done with; maybe for that reason, it is a good idea it is happening now."

He added: "If Michael Heseltine loses, as I think he will, I presume he can no longer sit in the background as heir apparent. He has many qualities and has been promoting himself for some time, so it is a good idea that we can now clear the air."

In Darlington, where Michael Fallon, the education minister, has a majority of 2,661 and would be among a dozen Conservative MPs who would be defeated by a swing of 3 percentage points, the local party is backing Mrs Thatcher. Bill Smith, chairman, is clearly annoyed at Sir Geoffrey Howe's attack but believes Mrs Thatcher is quite capable of winning the battle.

"She is a fighter as we all know, and I cannot see her giving up very easily. A win would probably help her personal standing and certainly I have had no calls from anyone saying we should switch and back Heseltine.

"He has brains, money, intelligence, all the attributes necessary, yet he is known for throwing tantrums and I wonder if there is something there that we might not want in a prime minister."

In Bolton North East, which the Conservatives hold by 813 votes, there was "wholehearted support" for Mrs Thatcher and no criticism of her style or the strategy the government was following under her leadership. A party officer said: "There is no doubt that some constituents who were historically paying £80 a year in rates got quite a shock, but there has been transitional relief and no one can demur from the principle that people who consume services should pay for them. But somewhere along the line the point is being missed that over-spending by Labour councils has to be controlled."

Michael Horn, Conservative agent and manager in Ellesmere Port and Neston, said that the constituency officers were not at all happy about the approaching contest. The general feeling was that Sir Geoffrey had not been judicious in his way of settling a difference of opinion.

Mr Horn was not impressed by Mr Heseltine's assurance that he would make changes to the community charge an early priority. "On the hypothetical chance of him winning the contest, he would still have the same problem of dealing with local councils and county councils that are controlled by Labour, the Liberal Democrats or are hung councils; councils that overspend and are profligate."

He added: "It is bad to change the captains in midstream. Mrs Thatcher has been proved right on most issues. Her style of man management may not be as good as it could be, but she can't be good at everything."

In Lancashire West, where the Conservatives hold a 1,600 majority, party officials are recording reaction towards Mr Heseltine's challenge by telephone calls received at party headquarters. Non-party members sympathetic towards the Conservatives were evenly divided between the prime minister and Mr Heseltine, but party officials and members were 100 per cent behind Mrs Thatcher.

Two Conservative MPs with small majorities in marginal seats in Nottingham are writing to 3,500 Tory party members in the city to ask their views of the leadership contest. Martin Brandon-Bravo, MP for Nottingham South, had a majority of 2,234 (4.2 per cent) at the last election. Michael Knowles's majority in Nottingham East is 456, or 1 per cent, and is one of the most vulnerable Tory seats in the county. Labour was runner up in both seats.

Barry Thurnell, the Conservative agent in Nottingham, said yesterday: "They do genuinely want to hear other people's views first. All I can say is that this morning this office has had approaching 100 calls from members of the party and members of the public, and we have yet to have one phone call in support of Michael Heseltine."

Annette Dickers, chairwoman of the Birmingham, Selly Oak Conservative Association, said last night: "We support the Prime Minister 100 per cent. No waverers have been brought to my attention.

Mixed reaction at home base

By William Cash and David Young

THE offices of Finchley Conservatives were being redecorated yesterday. Michael Love, the prime minister's agent, does not expect similar changes at Downing Street.

"We have sent a letter pledging our full support to the prime minister and have assured her that we are fully behind her," he said yesterday. Hanging on a wall behind his desk are prints by William Hogarth depicting the skulduggery of a 19th century political election. "The contest won't be anything like Hogarth," Mr Love said. "Mrs Thatcher will win clean and fair."

The prime minister's constituency is also home to the Middlesex county cricket club indoor cricket school. "If she wants any batting practice before Tuesday, we will gladly help her brush up her technique," Robert Atkins, the coach, said.

In the shopping area of Ballards Lane, George Kay, who owns Le Car Centre and voted for Mrs Thatcher at the last election, said he wanted to see Michael Heseltine in power. "Speaking as a professional, Mrs Thatcher has clocked up excessive mileage," Mr Kay said.

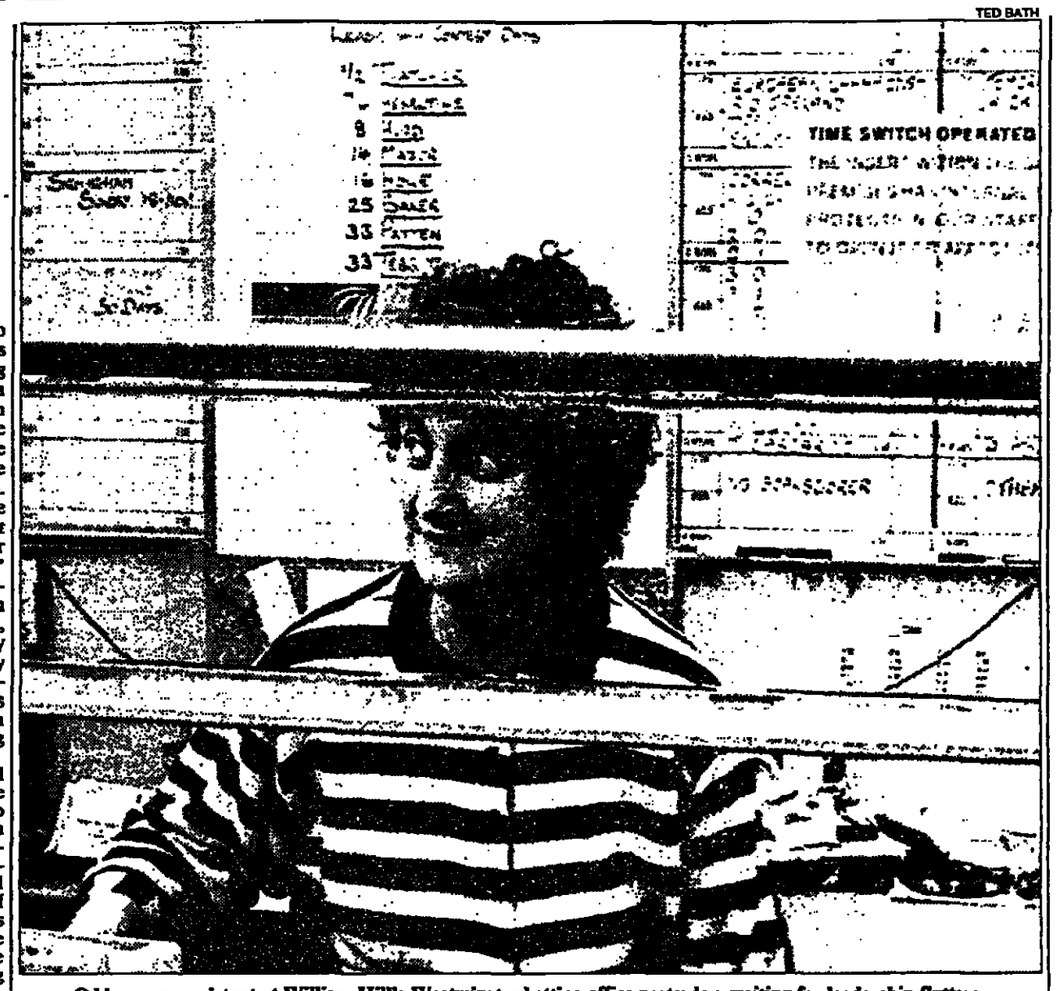
Pedro Ioannia, aged 44, the manager of Hair Pride, a local hairdressing salon, agreed. "People need a change. The country needs Heseltine now. I could do an improvement on his hair, though."

Speaking in the manicured drive leading to the imposing clubhouse of Finchley golf course, where Denis Thatcher occasionally plays, a regular summed up the feeling. "She is in a deep bunker," Montague Charkham, a director of Gieves and Hawkes of Savile Row, said.

In Henley-on-Thames, Mr Heseltine's constinuency, opinion was divided. Raymond Mobiot, the constituency Conservative Association president, said: "The contest is unnecessary. The battle is going to damage the country, the party and Michael.

However, Peter Owen, the association chairman, said: "Michael has my full support. There comes a time when one says enough is enough." He admitted, though, that opinion was as divided in the constituency as in the Commons and the country.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Blacker, chairman of the Rotherfield Greys and Highmoor branch of Mr Heseltine's constituency, said he was dismayed that his MP had thrown his hat into the ring.



TED BATH

Odds on: an assistant at William Hill's Westminster betting office yesterday, waiting for leadership flutters

Betting that is a bookmaker's delight

By Richard Evans

FOR Britain's bookmakers, there is only one winner in the Conservative party leadership contest. Themselves.

Within minutes of Michael Heseltine announcing that he would challenge Mrs Thatcher, the telephones at William Hill were ringing non-stop, with callers enquiring about odds and wishing to wager large sums. Although there are, at present, only two candidates, gamblers are already betting on other cabinet ministers they believe could be involved in a second round vote.

William Hill has accepted two four-figure bets on Mrs Thatcher to retain the party leadership and make her a hot 2-1 on favourite, while Mr Heseltine has attracted several £400 wagers and is 7-4 against. Douglas Hurd is also well backed at 8-1, with two £500 bets. Although John Major is 14-1 for the present contest, his odds to become the next but one Tory leader fell from 10-1 to 5-1 following considerable support.

Graham Sharpe, spokesman for William Hill, said: "It is a bookmaker's delight because we are not laying just one or two runners. We are laying right across the spectrum."

Tricky task for Hurd's backers

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

A SENIOR Conservative MP, long-time supporter of Margaret Thatcher and opponent of any contest this year, yesterday summed up the dilemma facing many backbenchers as next Tuesday's contest looms.

He has reached the conclusion that the prime minister is now too damaged to lead the Tories to victory at the next election. He believes Douglas Hurd to be the ideal candidate to unify the party, and give it a chance of winning the election.

He does not want Michael Heseltine as his leader. Like many others he will have to decide over the weekend whether the best way of getting Mr Hurd into the winner's enclosure is to back Mr Heseltine on the first ballot on Tuesday, or to abstain.

By abstaining he can help to deny Mrs Thatcher the minimum target of 187 that could be enough to get her through, provided that at that point she has a 56-vote lead over Mr Heseltine. However, by denying Mr Heseltine a positive vote he will help ensure that that minimum target will be sufficient for victory.

If he concludes that Mrs Thatcher is guaranteed 187 votes from her natural constituency on the right and the government, the best means of ensuring that a second ballot takes place is to vote for Mr Heseltine. The danger in that course is that if too many of his colleagues reach the same conclusion Mr Heseltine would be elected outright on the first ballot.

One MP said: "MPs are notoriously bad mathematicians. This is beyond us."

Saturday Review

A word from their sponsor

England footballers in Dublin yesterday and England cricketers touring Australia have someone in common. Jon Smith, the agent who puts the rich into sport's rich and famous, talks to Vicki Woods

Vietnam: who won the peace?

Richard West returns to the scene of America's greatest overseas trauma and finds capitalism alive and well in Saigon, as the locals still stubbornly call it

TIMES

Young guns, old legends

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Mockery in Iraq, caution in Europe

By Alice Thomson

THE domestic political problems of Margaret Thatcher caused much revelry in Iraq yesterday, where she was alleged to be possessed by evil spirits. Latif Nazzir al-Jassem, the Iraqi information minister, said: "Beating the drums of war is part of the acute psychological problems Thatcher is experiencing as she packs her bags to leave the leadership of the Conservative party."

Europe has reacted more cautiously to the leadership challenge. France, aloof until now, finally joined in the speculation with an article in *Le Monde* praising Sir Geoffrey Howe's Commons speech.

"In a calm and soothing voice, Sir Geoffrey made an unprecedented attack on the Iron Lady," the paper said, and added that Sir Geoffrey had eased Michael Heseltine's path. "Mrs Thatcher now risks being humiliated with only a bare majority, in which case she should stand down."

Libération devoted a whole page to the subject. "The fall of the house of Thatcher" had preoccupied Britain for the past fortnight, it said, calling Sir Geoffrey the assassin of Mrs Thatcher.

La Repubblica, the popular Italian newspaper, said: "Thatcher's throne is tottering." The Italian press views the leadership challenge with undisguised relish. With the headline "Big Ben marks the hour of the challenge," the *Corriere della Sera* considers "a revolt within the party inevitable after Sir Geoffrey's speech". The Turin daily says: "The torpedo has been fired which may well sink the battleship Thatcher." It describes Sir Geoffrey as the man inside the submarine who pressed the button.

In Norway, the tabloid *Verdens Gang* says Sir Geoffrey has struck Mrs Thatcher a mortal blow with his broken bat.

Spanish newspapers comment with some amusement. "The Tories have now begun an internal war which has all the aspects of a fight in a neighbourhood courtyard," *El Mundo's* London correspondent says. The paper places greatest emphasis on the Iron Lady's determination to "pulverise" the opposition.

Only *Die Welt*, the German newspaper, seems confident of the outcome. "Mrs Thatcher will fight and she will win," the paper says, but adds that, for the Labour party, "Thatcher as prime minister is the best guarantee for their victory in the next general election".

Few newspapers and no public figures in Europe have ventured any substantial opinion on the outcome of the challenge. Most have no wish to be seen to be taking sides. In Brussels, there is barely-concealed excitement among many officials at the prospect of Mrs Thatcher's humiliation.

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, anxious not to be accused of partisanship, has refused to give interviews to any British correspondent for the rest of the year.

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British social attitudes

Enterprise culture fails to take root

Reports by Bill Frost

BRITONS have resisted attempts by successive Conservative governments to change fundamentally the national character and impose Thatcherite values on society, the latest survey from the British Social Attitudes team says today.

Roger Jowell, the project director, said: "The enterprise culture seems to have been a bit of a miss with the majority of people. There is a strong sense in which the nation has resisted Thatcherism. The prime minister has failed to change hearts and minds."

The survey shows 56 per cent of the electorate in favour of increasing taxes to pay for better social welfare. Researchers found that such a move would attract majority support among all social classes, and was favoured by nearly half of the Conservatives canvassed.

Only 3 per cent support tax cuts leading to reductions in public spending. More than 75 per cent of the electorate believe that people living on state pensions had less than enough to make ends meet. Priorities for the extra government spending are clear, with 61 per cent choosing increased expenditure on the national health service, while one in five called for greater investment in education.

Of those questioned 47 per cent believe that private treatment in NHS hospitals is bad for the service and 50 per cent would confine it to private hospitals. Three people in four oppose any movement towards two-tier health care in which private medical insurance caters for the better off while the NHS looks after the rest.

The British Social Attitudes survey, the seventh the team has produced, declares: "The policy of spending cuts allied to cuts in direct taxation has still not attracted public support on anything like the scale the government would doubtless wish. Indeed, attitudes have shifted decisively, even among supporters of the party of government, in the opposite direction." Britain remains a steadfastly collectivist, or welfarist society "obstinately resistant to the lure of the enterprise culture", the survey says.

For the first time the team has examined Northern Ireland issues. Mr Jowell said: "Religious segregation of neighbourhoods exists there on a scale unknown outside the sub-continent."

The survey found that most people in Northern Ireland wish it to remain in the United Kingdom, while "the majority in Britain wish that, in the long term, it would leave."

All shades of British opinion believe the best future for the province is union with the Irish Republic and the removal of British troops. In Northern Ireland itself support among the Protestant community for continued union with Britain is virtually unanimous, but even among Roman Catholics backing for the status quo is higher than on the mainland.

Religion remains at the forefront of social and political life in Northern Ireland to a far more marked extent than in Britain. Only 12 per cent of people in the province do not have a religion, against 34 per cent in Britain, while 62 per cent live in religiously segregated communities and only 6 per cent of couples are married to someone of a different faith.

The survey found that 77 per cent of people in the province disapprove of homosexual relationships and extramarital sex, compared with 55 per cent disapproving in Britain. Religion rather than class is the primary source of social and political division in Northern Ireland, the survey said.

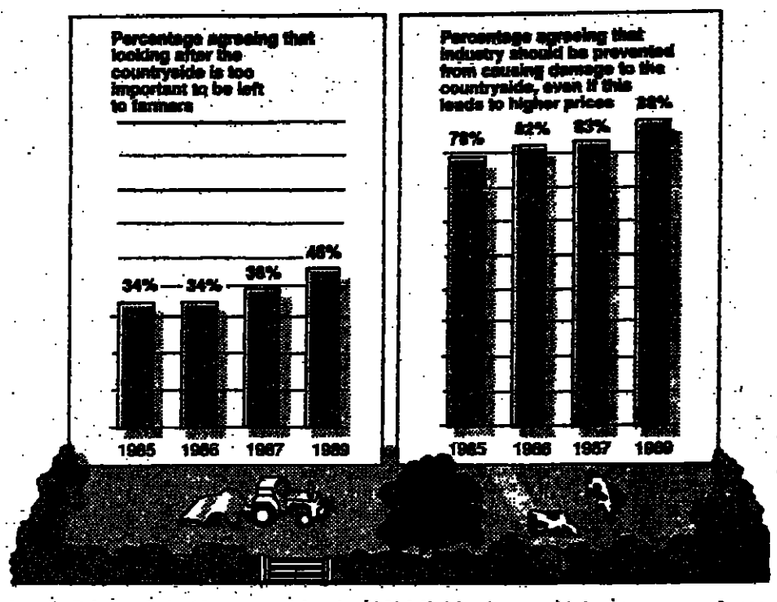
"Differences between Protestants and Catholics in Britain are minor by contrast. More important, even social class differences in Britain fail to divide people there to the extent that religion does in Northern Ireland."

About a third of Protestants and 15 per cent of Roman Catholics trust Britain to act in the best interests of Northern Ireland. But trust in a potential all-Irish government would be at an even lower level: not even the Catholic community expressed much confidence in that solution.

Neither community favours an independent Northern Ireland. "So the constitutional stalemate in the province appears to be as intractable as ever," the survey concludes.

British Social Attitudes, the Seventh Report (Gower Publishing Group; £32 hardback, £16.95 paperback)

Leading article, page 17



Green concern grows as fear of war recedes

ENVIRONMENT

CONCERN over environmental issues has risen to "remarkably high levels", with widespread anxiety at the threat posed by industrial waste in rivers or the sea, the survey finds.

There is also considerable disquiet about the effects of ozone-depleting gases and the destruction of tropical rain forests. An overwhelming majority, 88 per cent, said industry should be prevented from causing damage to the countryside, even if the introduction of stringent environmental safeguards brought higher prices.

Similarly, 72 per cent said the countryside should be protected even at the expense of jobs. There was disquiet too over farming methods, with 46 per cent saying that looking after the countryside was too important to be left to farmers.

Respondents with higher educational qualifications tended to be less trusting towards farmers and less inclined to favour job protection and lower prices at the expense of the countryside. "Labour supporters are rather more likely to favour jobs and lower prices. This suggests that the party may have some difficulty in persuading its supporters to pay the price of environmental protection," the report says.

There is evidence from the latest findings and past surveys that public concern about nuclear issues, defence policies and energy production is linked with concern over atmospheric pollution and threats to the environment. However, support for the construction of more nuclear power stations, which reached a low point in 1986 at the time of Chernobyl, has recovered slightly from 11 per cent to 16 per cent.

Backing for more gas-fuelled stations has fallen from 48 per cent in 1987 to 37 per cent, however, probably in response to awareness of the risks attached to carbon fuel emissions. The larger group of respondents said Britain should make do with existing power stations. Overall, nearly three out of four believe nuclear power stations create serious risks.

The fear of nuclear war between the Soviet Union and the West has receded sharply with 83 per cent believing such a conflict "to be unlikely", compared to 63 per cent in 1985. Nevertheless almost three quarters said Britain should maintain a nuclear deterrent.

The survey suggests that as the war scare of the early 1980s recedes, increased concern about the physical environment may take its place. Thus, wider measures to protect the environment are likely to enjoy high levels of popular support.

The survey, however, sounds a warning note: "We do not yet know what price people are willing to pay for long-term measures, the benefits of which only the next generations may live to see."

Qualified tolerance of gays

SEXUALITY

PUBLIC disapproval of homosexuality has lessened as anxiety about Aids abates, the survey says. However, 68 per cent of those questioned by researchers still believe that homosexual relations are always, or mostly, wrong.

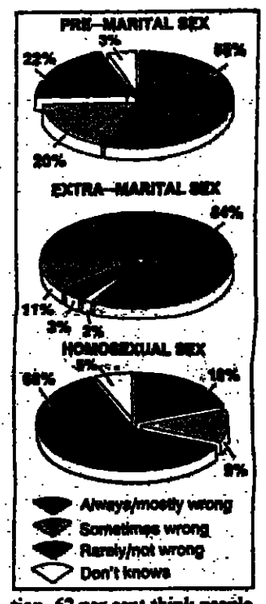
Although a trend towards greater tolerance has reasserted itself, large minorities (39 per cent) still believe it is unacceptable for a homosexual to be a teacher in higher education, or to hold a responsible position in public life (37 per cent), and about half the population thinks that homosexuals should not be allowed to teach in primary or secondary schools.

While there is almost universal awareness that male homosexuals, drug abusers and promiscuous homosexuals are at risk from Aids, nearly two thirds of the British public also think that lesbians are threatened by the disease, though they are one of the lowest risk groups. The survey says that, perhaps from growing public complacency, people are now less inclined to acknowledge that occasional marital infidelity is risky, although 60 per cent still believe it is. About one in twenty of those questioned report knowing someone with the HIV virus.

Of those questioned, 55 per cent believe that Aids sufferers have themselves to blame. Respondents over 55 are far more likely to take that view than younger people. However, in apparent contradiction, 62 per cent think people with Aids should receive more sympathy from society. Even so, only 43 per cent support the proposition that more should be spent on finding a cure, compared with 58 per cent in 1987.

The highest level of condemnation is reserved for extramarital sex, which more than four out of five see as "always, or almost always wrong". The survey reveals considerable tolerance for sexual relationships before marriage, which only just over one in five believe to be wrong.

The report says certain acts are judged right or wrong according to the harm they cause, rather than the fact they offend against a rigid moral code. "People may be coming to realise that it is unsafe sexual practices themselves which carry a risk of Aids, and not the kind of sexual relationship in which these practices take place."



Working women defend their role

THE FAMILY

BRITISH women of working age are more fiercely opposed than ever to the suggestion that their place is at home with the children. Almost 70 per cent of those approached by survey researchers rejected the proposition that "a wife's job is to look after the home and the family". In 1984 only 50 per cent disagreed.

Two in three women aged 18 to 59 also believe that having a job is the best way to establish personal independence. Only one in five, however, says that the family will also be happier if the woman works. In general, older women hold less egalitarian views than younger women.

Men are less liberal in nearly every respect, particularly over women combining work with family responsibilities. Only one in seven men believes that a woman and her family will be happier if she goes out to work. But husbands of women with paid jobs are considerably more egalitarian in their attitudes than those who are sole breadwinners.

Marriage remains a very popular institution, though over two in five people think it advisable for young people to live together before making a final commitment to each other. Only 4 per cent would advise living together permanently without formalising the union.

Considerable concern is registered over how children fare in single-parent families. Fewer than one in three of respondents believe a single parent can bring up a child as well as a married couple.

The same question was put to respondents in four countries besides Britain: the United States, the Irish Republic, The Netherlands and Hungary. "Answers in all five countries were unabashedly sexist, with mothers being judged the more competent to bring up a child alone," the survey says.

In Britain only three in ten people believe that divorce should be made more difficult, and about half of those answering researchers' questions believed that the law should stay as it is. But only 17 per cent say divorce should be made easier for couples with young children.

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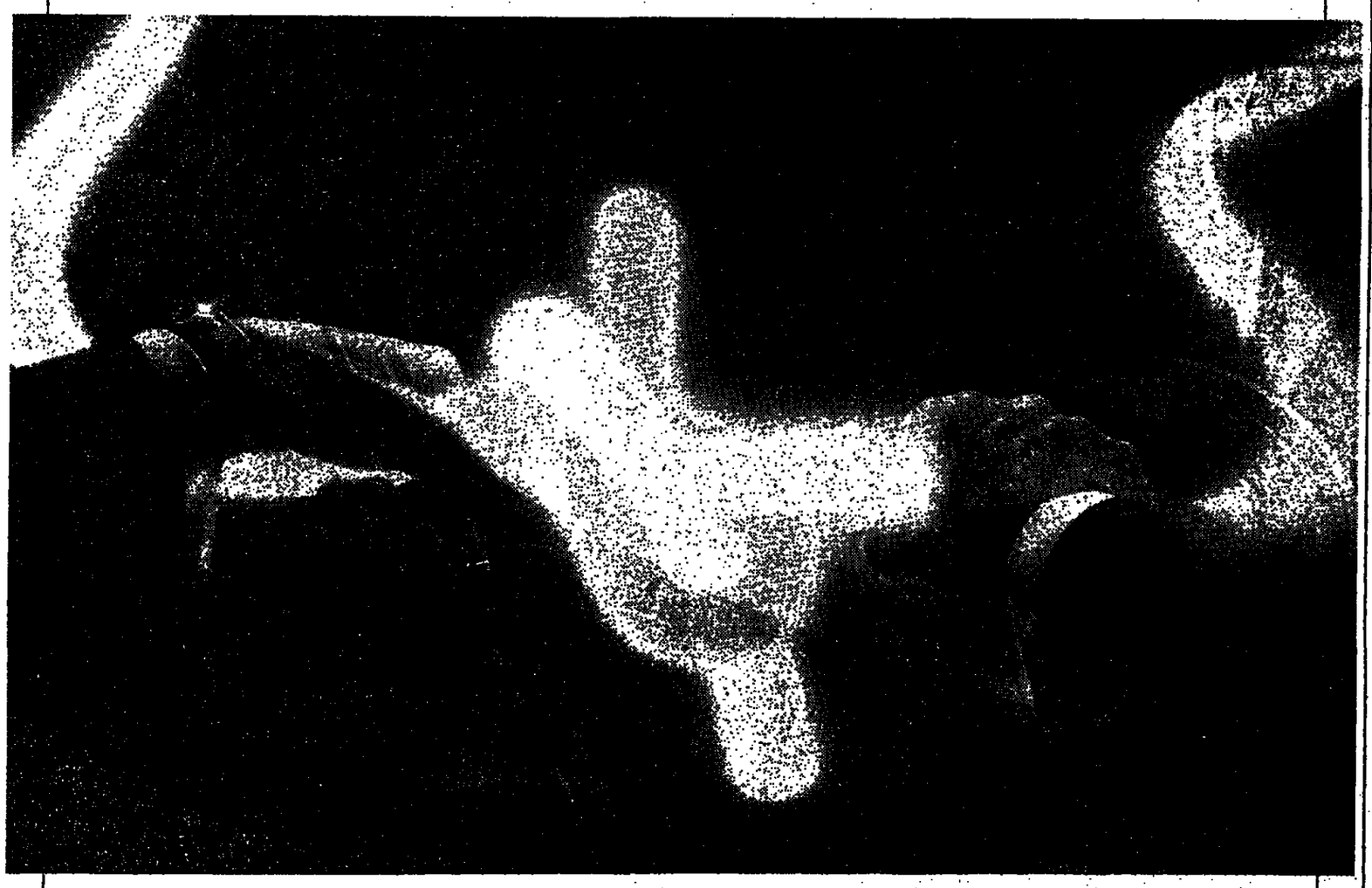

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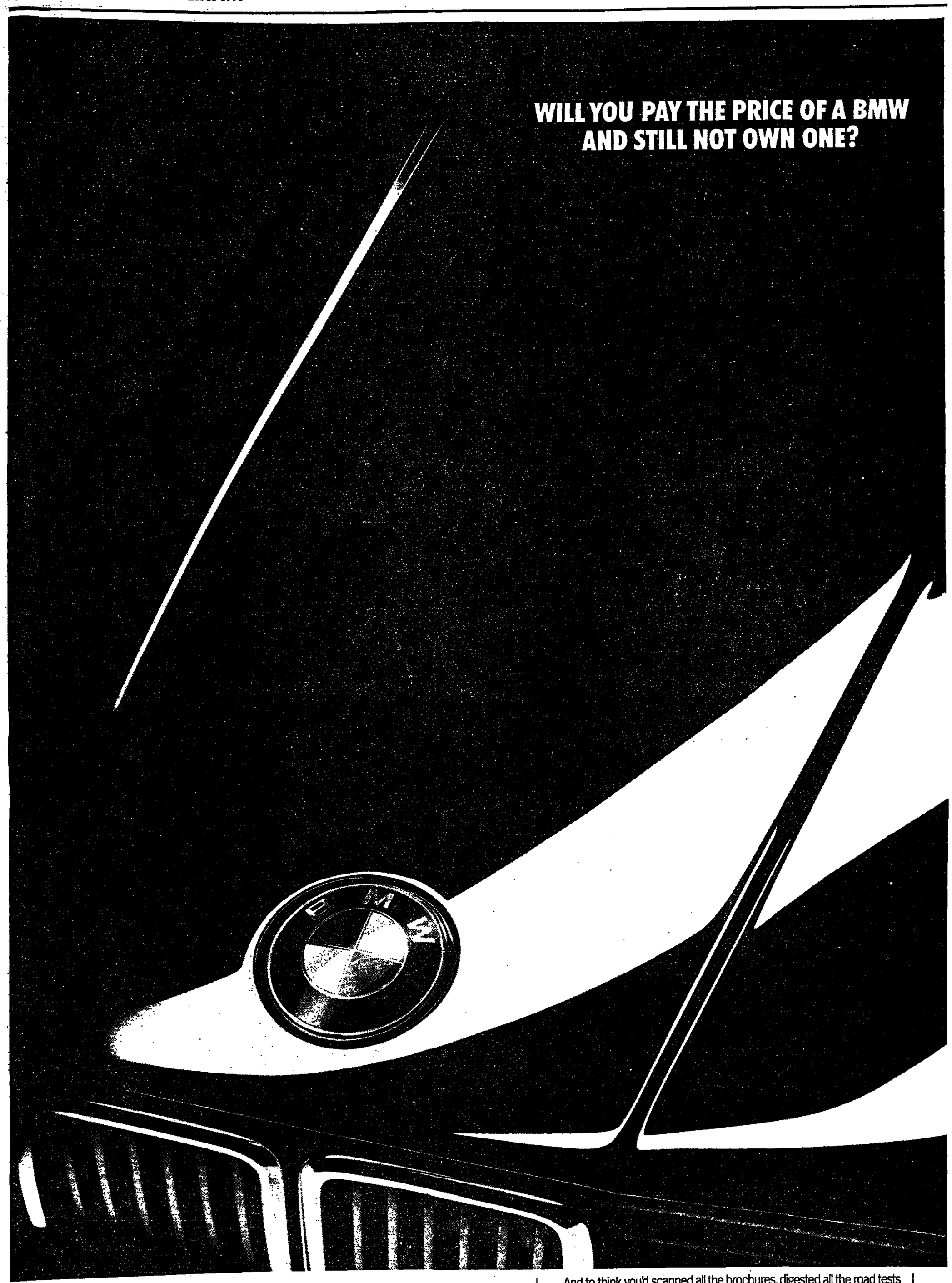

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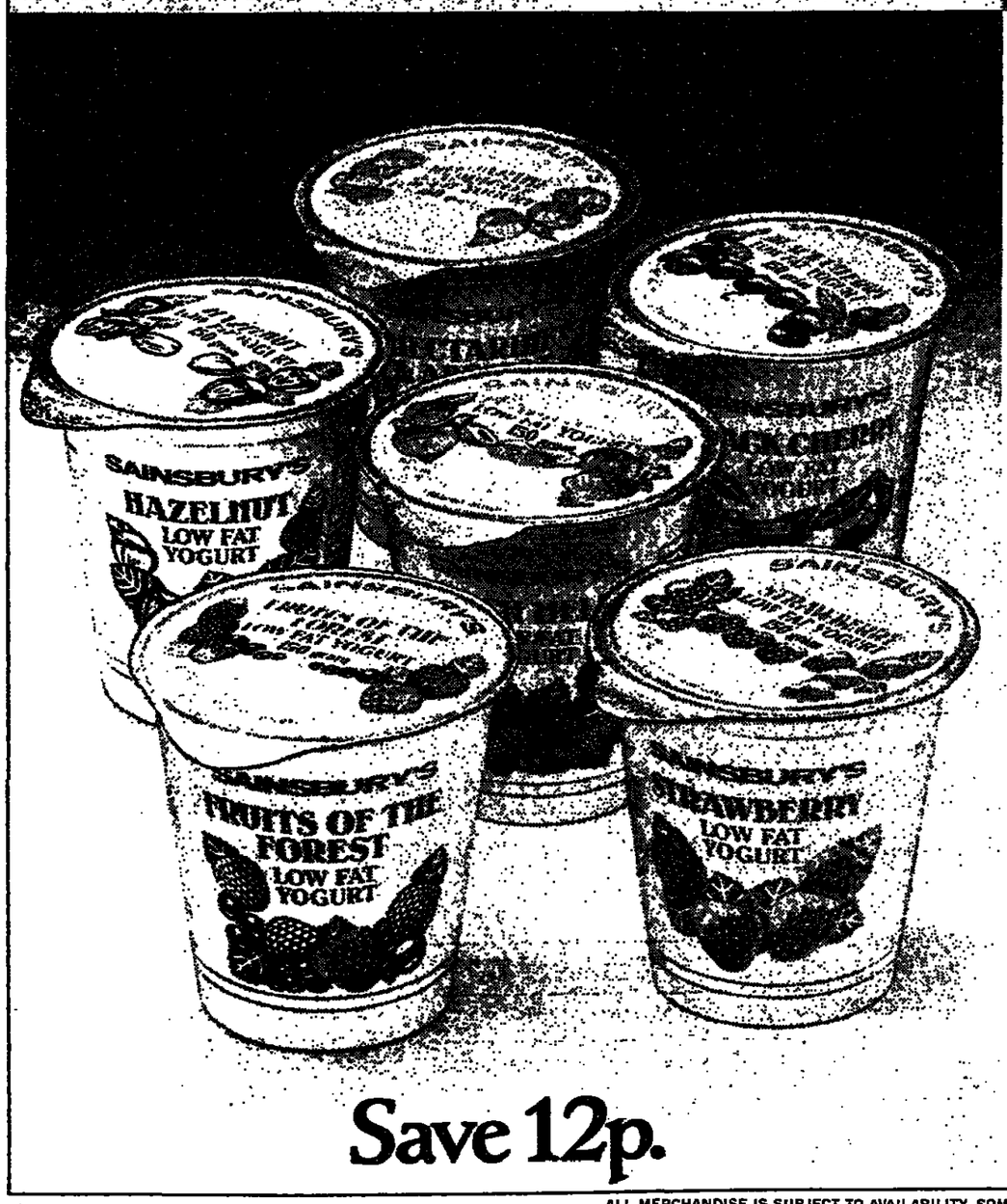

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Man left strangled girl for dead on Downs, court told

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN UNEMPLOYED labourer snatched a girl aged seven as she roller-skated home and drove her in the boot of his car to a beauty spot, where he left her for dead after a vicious sexual assault, a court was told yesterday.

The girl survived the attempt to strangle her at Devil's Dyke, a landmark on the South Downs, in East Sussex, and was able to describe her ordeal to police, Lewes Crown Court was told.

Ann Curnow, QC, for the prosecution, said that on February 4, the girl, from Brighton, went to a corner shop but found it closed. She was returning home when she saw a red car with the boot open. "She went past a man whom she had not seen before and he grabbed her from behind round her waist and put her into the boot, which was then shut. Despite her tender years she is a child of great presence of mind and in spite of her ordeal she observed certain things in the boot and tried to hammer on the lid with some success."

At Devil's Dyke the man transferred her to the back seat of his red Ford Cortina where he placed his hands over her mouth and round her neck until she was left "mercifully unconscious".

The court was told that the girl, who was abducted on the Whitehawk estate on the outskirts of Brighton, was sexually assaulted after being strangled. Her clothing was then thrown away or buried and she was left for dead in undergrowth. But she came to and was able to go for help.

She asked the first people she met: "Are you kidnappers?" They took her to a golf club near by, where police were alerted and 482 officers spent the following day searching the Downs.

Russell Bishop, aged 24, a father of two children, from Lewes Road, Brighton, denies kidnapping, attempted murder, attempting to strangle with intent to enable him to commit indecent assault, and indecent assault.

During her 20-minute car ride across 14 miles of countryside, the girl hit the lid of the boot with a hammer she found there to try to attract attention until the driver shouted at her to be quiet. She also planned to try to escape but did not have a chance before losing consciousness, the court was told.

Miss Curnow said: "She remembers nothing until she came to, stark naked in the bushes feeling sick and very dizzy. As she started to get out of the bushes she stumbled. She emerged onto a track on the Dyke in a really dreadful condition. The Crown's case is that she had been rendered unconscious by suffocation. It is the Crown's case that the assailant *intended* her to be unavailable to give evidence against him, to kill her and he left thinking she was dead."

Miss Curnow said that the couple who found her noticed "this apparition coming towards them, naked and bleeding and crying with her hair matted". She asked them to take her to her mummy and daddy. As they put her in the back seat of their car and covered her with clothes she asked whether she was being kidnapped again.

The girl's skating boots and other clothing were later discovered, together with a tracksuit allegedly worn by Mr Bishop, who was arrested the day after the assault.

Fragments of paint from the inside of the boot of Mr Bishop's car were allegedly matched by forensic scientists with flakes found on the girl's skating boots. Fibres from her jumper were said to have been found on the tracksuit bottoms and in the boot.

Miss Curnow says that according to DNA genetic fingerprint testing the chances of semen found on the tracksuit bottoms not being Mr Bishop's were allegedly one in 80 million.

The court was told that at an identity parade three days after the assault, the defendant was noticed allegedly altering his appearance by wetting his hair. The parade was delayed while his hair was dried. The girl, who inspected the line-up through a mirror, was asked if she could point out the man who attacked her. She said: "I think it was number nine." Number nine was Mr Bishop.

Later, her mother told the jury: "She is bright, observant and some people say she is a little bit of an old head on young shoulders. But then again she can still be a child when she wants to be."

The case continues today.

£344,000 damages for farmer

A farmer who lost the chance to take over the tenancy of an Essex farm after his father's death because of his solicitor's negligence was yesterday awarded £344,000 by the High Court.

Roger Layzell, aged 46, had hoped to take over the tenancy of the farm in Pebmarsh. An error by his solicitors meant, however, that an application to the Agricultural Land Tribunal was not made within three months of the death and a notice to quit was served.

Ballot arrests

Police investigating alleged ballot rigging within the Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday arrested two women activists based in Liverpool. They were later released without charge. The arrest of the women, who were members of the union but not paid officials, followed the arrest earlier in the week of seven people by Scotland Yard. They were also released without charge.

Cling film move

The Tesco supermarket chain joined other retailers in withdrawing cling film yesterday after the government's warning that chemicals in the food wrapping could be harmful. The company has acted pending new instructions on packs in line with recommendations made by food experts.

Fraud raids

Sixteen people were arrested yesterday in dawn raids by Flying Squad detectives investigating benefits frauds. The arrests in Lancashire, Cumbria and Scotland follow an enquiry into frauds involving hundreds of thousands of pounds. Police said more arrests were likely.

350 jobs go

Philips, the Dutch electronics firm, is to cut 350 jobs in England, it announced yesterday. The cuts will mean redundancy for a quarter of the 1,200 staff at the Philips components factory at Belmont, Durham. Another 50 jobs will go at Simonstone, Lancashire.

Suicide verdict

The actress Jill Bennett took a drug overdose while depressed over the break-up of a love affair, an inquest at Westminster Coroner's Court was told yesterday. Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner, recorded that Miss Bennett, aged 58, who was found dead at her London home on October 5, committed suicide.

Lib Dem choice

Bob Ingham, a Macclesfield councillor, has been chosen to contest Clwyd North-West for the Liberal Democrats. The seat is held by the deselected Conservative MP Sir Anthony Meyer. Mr Ingham, aged 59, is an environmentalist educated at University College of North Wales, Bangor.

Prison regime that thrives on therapy

This week David Waddington, the home secretary, promised to step up treatment for jailed sex offenders. Quentin Cowdry visited Grendon jail, Buckinghamshire, where violent criminals receive intensive therapy

PETER TREVNOR

Community spirit: Ken Smedley, an officer at Grendon jail, chatting to an inmate

"THIS is the hardest piece of bird I've done," says Paul, a tall, fresh-faced prisoner, almost debonair in his striped shirt and brilliant white Reebok trainers. "Physically it's easy — but mentally it's something else."

The assessment deserves serious consideration as Paul, serving three life terms, has spent most of the past 25 years involuntarily testing prison regimes. It was only when he came to Grendon jail in Buckinghamshire, however, that anyone tried to explain why, since the age of ten, he had been committing crimes.

For the first eight years after his conviction for multiple manslaughter, Paul was the toughest of the tough in jail. But his hardness was largely a veneer and two years ago, in a shared cell at Long Lartin maximum security jail, the coating finally disintegrated.

He recalls: "I insisted on being moved into the segregation block. I just couldn't take it any more. I had to have help." It seemed as though he had reached his ultimate nemesis, but the despair marked the beginning of his recovery. Shortly afterwards, he was transferred to Grendon.

Today Paul, whose surname *The Times* has decided not to disclose, appears a transformed personality. Where there was once aggression and hopelessness there is now geniality and an almost visible sense of purpose. He talks openly, though with painful remorse, about the night he learnt of his girlfriend's infidelity and the following descent into violence. His chances of being moved soon to a category C jail or even an open prison are now considered good.

Grendon, which lies outside the village of Grendon Underwood, near Aylesbury, is a maverick prison, an islet of penal progressiveness that, 27 years after its opening, has lost none of its shock value. On every level, the contrast with the rest of the prison estate is marked.

Whereas many prisoners can look forward to only a few hours "unlock" each day, Grendon's inmates spend almost as much time outside their cells as in them. Staff-inmate relations in most jails are distant, with prison officers insisting on strict observance of rules, but at Grendon the atmosphere is amicable and prisoners help to make the rules. Therapy in other jails is often little more than a 15-minute monthly chat with a psychiatrist; in Grendon it is on tap around-the-clock.

Grendon, to an extent that horrifies many prison officers, is a genuine community where a whole raft of decisions, ranging from what should be on the menu each day to whether a prisoner should be ejected from the jail, are taken jointly by staff and inmates.

The regime is focused on attempting to confront and alter the offending behaviour of some 200 mainly violent criminals. Staff prefer that inmates volunteer for the prison's arduous, 12-week induction course as no-one, they point out, can have therapy forced upon them. About 75 per cent of applicants are accepted.

Every week there are three four-hour therapy sessions, the inmates on each wing dividing into five groups to encourage debate. At the end of the discussions, overseen normally by an officer, psychologist or psychiatrist, all inmates and staff on the wing convene to discuss progress.

Research shows that former Grendon inmates are not less likely to reoffend after release from jail, but staff point out that studies have taken insufficient account of how deep-rooted the average Grendon inmate's criminality is. When they do relapse, their offences are generally less severe.

David Saunders Wilson, the prison's young assistant governor, also says that Grendon has proportionately fewer disciplinary hearings than any other British jail and has never suffered an escape or serious assault on a member of staff.

He recalls the day that a burly convicted murderer ambled into a therapist's office and placed a large hunting knife on the table, saying: "I feel safe here. I don't need this any more."

Cosy notions of rural life 'are belied by reality'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

PEOPLE living in rural areas have feelings of depression, utter powerlessness, betrayal and lack of hope as deep as any felt in the inner cities, the Right Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, told the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday.

He said: "The scale of rural problems may be less, and it is masked by its surroundings, but the experience is as real and equally heart-rending." The bishop, vice-chairman of the Archbishops' Commission on Rural Areas, whose 400-page report, *Faith In The Countryside*, was designed to shatter the illusion of the rural idyll, added: "It is difficult sometimes to believe in this crisis, because it is hard to understand that someone can be deprived who lives in beautiful surroundings." To discuss finance would be to miss the point of the report, which highlighted a conflict in church life between the demands of the economy and the demand of faith.

Sir Douglas Lovelock, First Church Estates Commissioner, said, however, that the report could hardly have come at a worse time, because money was tight and would become even more so. Each of the five big reviews proposed by the report could cost up to £30,000 a year for two or three years, he said. A recommendation to raise the clergy stipend to £14,000 and give some clergymen's wives £2,000 a year would cost £60 million a year.

The report, which was referred to the synod's standing committee for further consideration, will be noted in the House of Lords today. Dr Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "The withdrawal of local facilities of all sorts, the shrivelling of transport facilities, the real poverty often hidden by apparent rural affluence, these are matters made clear in this report and help to dispel cosy notions of the countryside."

The publication of *Faith In The City*, an earlier church report, resulted in the Church Urban Fund, which has raised £15 million towards its £18 million target. No similar fund is proposed for the rural church, although the synod agreed to appoint a rural officer. Dr Runcie said: "I hope that our debate will not be obsessed by the question of cost, important though that is."

John Gummer, the agriculture minister and a member of the House of Laity, said the church had to accept that most decisions about agriculture were made in Brussels.

Gummer: most agriculture decisions made in Brussels

The Right Rev Michael Ball, Bishop of Truro, said that only one-third of the people in his diocese were economically active and in full-time employment. He added that there was a "heavy hearted hopelessness" in many country areas.

Rough times ahead for BA

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways passengers, investors and unions were warned yesterday to prepare for one of the roughest patches of turbulence encountered by the airline since it was privatised.

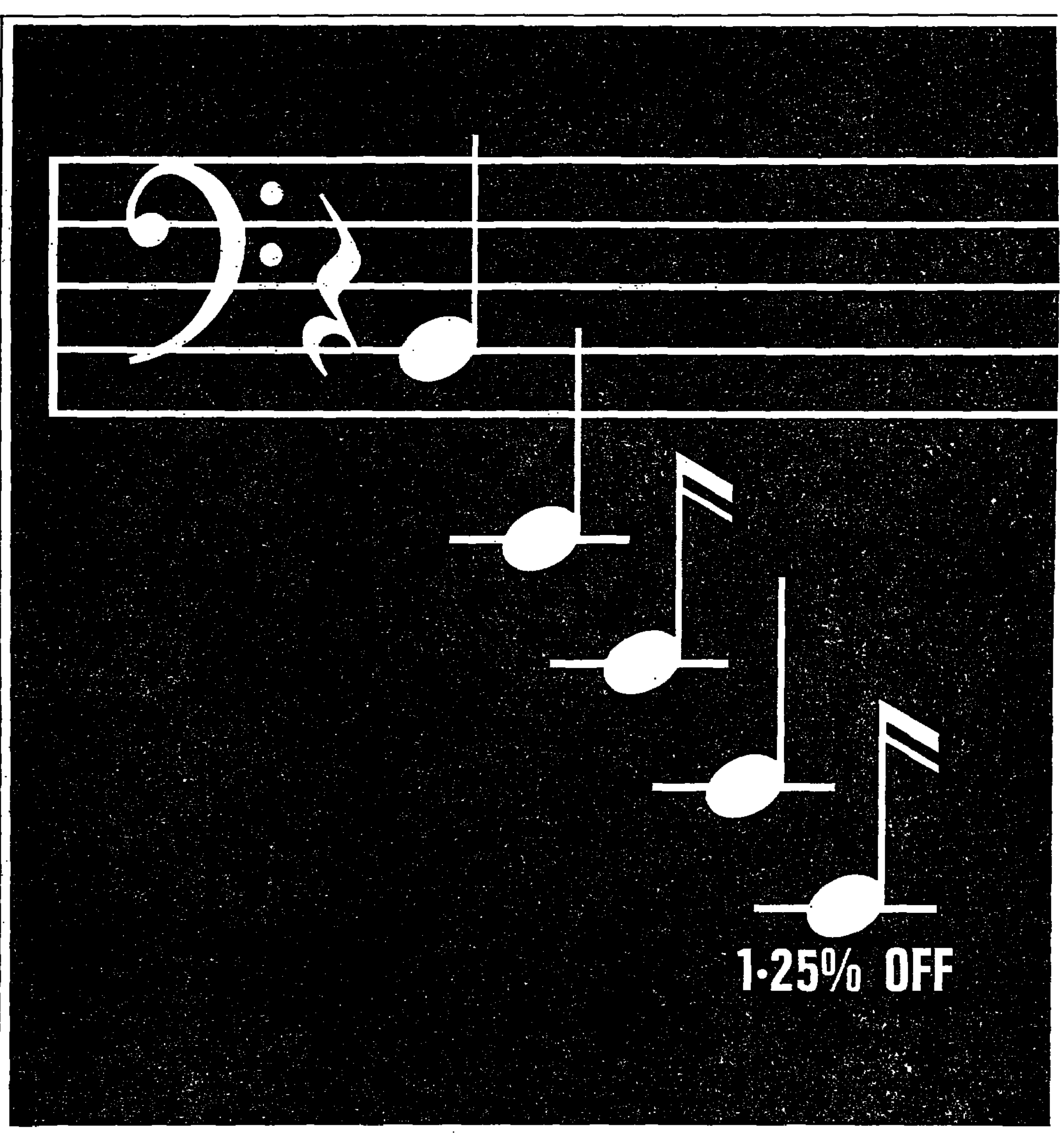
Passengers were told that some flights could be cancelled at a moment's notice if the service proved uneconomic to operate, investors that despite record £320 million profits in the half year to September, dividends would be held to 2.8p a share, and unions that "radical steps" would be taken to keep costs down. Lord King of Wartnaby, the airline's chairman, said that all airlines were experiencing difficulties, mainly because of the Gulf tensions.

"The airline industry is flying through some rather uncomfortable turbulence," he said. "British Airways is not immune from this but we believe that with strong management we will be able to withstand the current difficulties and take the company to the blue skies beyond."

Talks are to be held with unions today in an effort to obtain approval for wage rises well below the level of inflation in return for a promise of no compulsory redundancies. The airline was on target for even bigger profits before the sharp increase in oil prices and the rise in the value of sterling in the wake of the invasion of Kuwait.

BA's overall yields are depressed as fewer people travel by Concorde or first-class and it is meeting increased competition from American carriers and a concerted drive within the European Community to force its local competition policy on leading airlines.

Shares tumble, page 29



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MM/30

Australia seeks UK help in new clean-up of nuclear test site

By ROBERT COCKBURN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE most comprehensive study yet of outback contamination caused by British nuclear tests in Australia was tabled in the Canberra parliament yesterday, and will form the basis of fresh demands that Britain contribute towards a new clean-up of the sites.

Australia is to seek fresh talks in the new year with the UK government on the future of the Maralinga range in South Australia. But although the study confirms that plutonium contamination of the site is more extensive than has ever been admitted, the Foreign Office in London yesterday stood by the position that Britain was absolved from further responsibility by agreements with Canberra in 1968 and 1979.

The four-year study was conducted by the so-called Technical Assessment Group, consisting of Australian, British and American scientists. It was set up after a Royal Commission in 1985 rejected British claims that an earlier clearance of the test range was adequate, and recommended that Britain bear the cost of a new clean-up. Complete rehabilitation of lands that Aborigines were driven from by the tests between 1953 and 1963 would cost more than $Aus650 million (£250 million). The Australian government will almost certainly opt for a cheaper solution, and the Maralinga Aborigines are ready to enter negotiations. However, argument over who pays would be revived in any new talks between the two governments.

The study says that an area of 13 square miles of aboriginal land north-west of the restricted Maralinga range will be permanently uninhabitable. More than 38 square miles has radiation levels of from five to 20 millisieverts. An area approaching 580 square miles has contamination of one millisievert, which is deemed safe by the study.

The detective work in tracing waste from the tests, including some 50 lb of weapons-grade plutonium covered by sand in 1967, is a remarkable achievement for the scientists. They discovered each device had burned a record of its radioactive contents into the land. This caused a security scare for the Ministry of Defence in London last year, when it stopped full publication of this data, fearing aspiring nuclear powers such as Iraq could gain vital information on plutonium amounts and purity.

The study also considered the danger posed by radiation to a desert community such as the Aborigines. The Maralinga Aborigines have been described as ideal guinea pigs living in an outdoor laboratory for examination of survival conditions after a nuclear war. A tribal community who hunt, eat and sleep in the open, they often go barefoot and wear thin clothes, making them vulnerable to dust-borne contamination.

The Labor government of Bob Hawke is understood to favour a partial clean-up and fencing of the dangerous area, costing between $Aus30 million and $Aus60 million. The Maralinga Tjarutja Aborigines say they seek a practical solution, not a "moral victory", and will accept compensation for the loss of the worst-affected lands.

Princess charming: a radiant Princess of Wales congratulating a member of the cast of Welsh Opera's production of *Salome* backstage at the Bunkamura theatre in Tokyo. The Prince and Princess of Wales attended the performance last night. The Welsh Opera visit to Japan is part of the UK90 cultural exchange programme. Earlier yesterday the prince urged Japanese businessmen to set an environmental example to industry worldwide by becoming "world-friendly" (Reuter reports). He said that overseas activity by big business in sensitive areas such as the tropical rainforests, oceans and developing countries had become a legitimate concern of customers, employees and suppliers as well as shareholders.

The prince told presidents and chairmen of Japan's most powerful companies that big business should develop an international commitment to good corporate citizenship "firmly based on the principles of sustainable economic development", adding: "In the great peaceful post-war resurgence of Japan's industry, Japan has led the world in the concept of 'user-friendly' products. What we need now is an extension of this concept to the world around us. Business must become 'world-friendly'. And here again, Japan can show us the way."

Japan pays credit, page 24

Pressure grows on Malan to resign

Johannesburg — General Magnus Malan, the South African defence minister, is under fresh pressure to resign after a judicial commission confirmed that a covert military unit took the law into its own hands in a murderous conflict with the African National Congress and its allies (Gavin Bell writes).

Critics across the political and racial spectrum demanded his immediate resignation yesterday after the official enquiry found that the covert Civil Co-operation Bureau employed convicted murderers to "try, sentence and punish" perceived enemies of the state in the 1980s.

Mr Justice Louis Harms, the commission chairman, said that the minister was responsible for the bureau, but General Malan said he could not be held responsible for "the unauthorised activity of five or six people". He was supported by President de Klerk, who said: "I can find no reason to condemn the politicians in charge for the way they carried out their duties."

The ANC said the minister should resign and all irregular military units should be disbanded.

Delhi fighting

Delhi — Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs fought running battles in the streets of Old Delhi as the communal conflagration that has created havoc across northern India reached the capital for the first time. At least two people were shot dead and one was stabbed to death when a Sikh peace march turned ugly. Tensions were high because a Sikh holy book had been burnt by unidentified men.

Debts wiped out

Brussels — About 69 of the world's poorest countries are to have all their debts to the EC wiped out under a plan put forward by the European Commission. Informal soundings among EC member states found widespread support for the move, one of the key demands of the African, Caribbean and Pacific nations in recent negotiations with Brussels for a new Lomé trade and aid convention.

Pakistan sell-off

Karachi — The new Pakistani government of Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, is to sell off state-owned banks, insurance, and financial institutions, and sweep away bureaucratic controls on investment. Mr Sharif told industrialists in Islamabad that all nationalised industries would soon be returned to the private sector in an attempt to free the economy from state and bureaucratic controls.

Nevada go-ahead

Washington — The American energy department said that a nuclear weapon test in Nevada would go ahead, despite claims by the environmental group, Greenpeace, that three British women had infiltrated the site to protest at Britain's involvement. Greenpeace said it was in contact with the women, Lorna Richardson, aged 25, Jane Gregory, aged 27, both of London, and Juley Howard, aged 23, of Bristol.

Cancer hope

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first clinical use of gene therapy in cancer patients, a treatment that some scientists believe will revolutionise medicine. The method is to be tried first on an unnamed middle-aged man with malignant skin cancer.

Man kills 11 in New Zealand rampage

From JEREMY HART IN DUNEDIN

A GUN-obsessed loner rampaged through a New Zealand seaside hamlet for almost 24 hours, killing 11 men, women and children before he was shot dead by police yesterday.

David Gray, aged 33, who was armed with two hunting rifles and a revolver, killed a fifth of the population of Aramoana when he went beserk on Tuesday night.

Residents huddled in their homes as Gray first fired randomly at his neighbours, then stalked the picturesque community, leaving a trail of scattered bodies. His unhindered movement made it difficult for a 150-strong police force to surround him.

Finally, an anti-terrorist squad stormed the house in which Gray was hiding. Tear gas flushed Gray, dressed in a military-style pullover and balaclava, into the open, where he shot one policeman in the ankle. The volley of returning fire hit Gray in the chest and head, killing him.

Most of the victims had not been identified last night, but the mass killing is thought to have left at least three members of one family dead, as well as Leo Wilson, aged six, Chris Cole, aged 61, a London-born fisherman, and Stuart Guthrie, aged 41, a local policeman and father of three.

A neighbour of Gray's witnessed the shooting and said he could not believe it when he realised who it was. "I looked up and saw shots ricocheting off a parked utility car (van) and people screaming and diving for cover," Darrin Gibbs said.

The police announced an enquiry, while politicians pressed for an urgent review of gun laws.

Further weapons and ammunition were found in Gray's house. He was described as a gun-mad loner by neighbours. According to unconfirmed reports, Gray had recently tried to buy an AK47 automatic rifle.

Shogun sets scene for a Broadway smash

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

THE jinx of ancient Japan struck *Shogun*, the most ambitious new production of the Broadway season, for the umpteenth time on Tuesday when some of the show's high-tech scenery fell on the leading man and knocked him out.

The accident could hardly have come at a worse time since the Marquis theatre was packed with critics preparing their reviews for the long-awaited and troubled spectacle, which holds its première today after a try-out run in Washington and previews in New York. The $6 million (£3 million) musical version of James Clavell's epic novel features much-scripted destruction, including a life-like shipwreck and a gut-wrenching earthquake, but the falling scenery was accidental.

Philip Casnoff, the leading man brought in last month after a difficult trial run in Washington, had just finished declaring his love to his Japanese mistress when there was a flash and a crash and a large Japanese screen fell on him, achieving what numerous ninjas, evil warlords and scheming Jesuits had so far failed to do.

Two surgeons in the audience brought 20th-century succour and the curtain came down, leaving the critics unsure of the fate of Captain Blackthorne, the marooned English sea-captain caught up in the turmoil of old Japan. Casnoff was taken to hospital with concussion but is expected to be well enough to open.

The incident was the latest of a chain of misfortunes. In the Washington run, which was panned by the local critics but sold out to the public, the machinery kept jamming. The show was trimmed by 45 minutes to suit the time-conscious tastes of the New York public, with some of the songs of Paul Chihara, the composer, cut to mere sound bites. Peter Karre, the British actor, was dropped from the role of Blackthorne as insufficiently glamorous.

Casnoff, a 33-year-old American who starred in the short-lived Broadway production of *Chess*, was given two weeks to learn the part.

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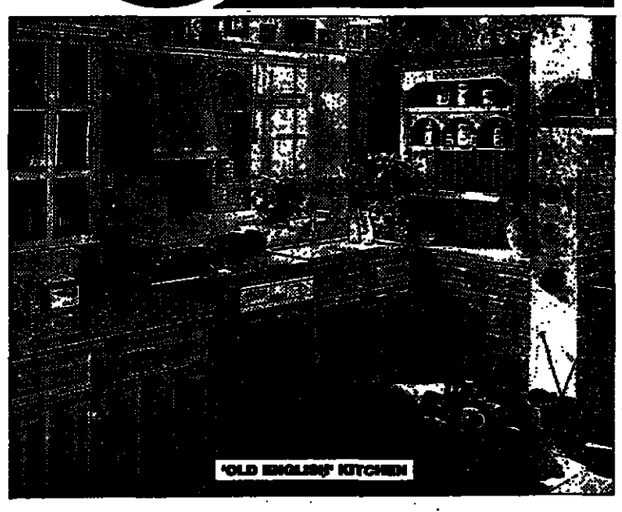

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Britain will play leading role in EC, Major says

By Robert Morgan

A CLEAR message that Britain intends to play a leading role in the future development of Europe was delivered to the Commons yesterday by John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Speaking on the last day of the six-day debate on the Queen's speech, he said that Britain intended to play a central role and, furthermore, the other 11 European Community governments wanted it to.

With Margaret Thatcher sitting beside him, Mr Major told MPs that the whole government was agreed on the need to continue an evolutionary approach to European integration. He made clear his backing for the prime minister and predicted that when the general election came the people would vote for the courage and conviction with which Mrs Thatcher had led the country for so long.

In recent months policy on Europe and the debate on economic and monetary union in particular had occupied centre stage, he said. That was not surprising because there was a great deal at stake.

But the rapid push towards the Delors version of European monetary union owed almost everything to pressure for closer political integration. That was the message from the Rome council. But that was the wrong way to approach such important decisions. What was needed was a constructive, practical approach. That was the appoach the Community had been following over the past five years or so.

"It has built on the undoubted discipline of the exchange-rate mechanism with the Deutschmark providing the anchor. The result has been an impressive degree of convergence on low inflation in much of Europe."

The whole government was agreed on the need to continue that successful evolutionary approach in the further moves now under discussion towards economic and monetary integration. The government's proposals were practical, realistic ideas and they would promote convergence and economic integration beyond Delors stage one. They would enable the 12 members of the EC to move forward together.

The fact that some European figures attacked Britain's proposals should not worry them because their proposals were gathering ground and they would gather more adherents as the inter-governmental conference in Rome next month got down to details.

One of the points on which they all agreed at the Rome council was that there needed to be a substantial next stage that should involve the further development of the ecu.

"At present, the only worked-up proposals for stage two are ours and the Spanish proposals which are similar to ours. The conference that starts next month will determine the future direction of the Community. It is therefore of enormous importance not just for this country but for the Community as a whole and the wider Europe as well. We face some difficult negotiations, but the House should remember we are not yet really in the middle of the process. The conference has not yet started. There is a long way to go.

"But we should not underestimate the strong desire both here and among our partners that we should not be sidelined. Our European partners want the United Kingdom in the centre of the Community We have played a leading role in recent years in the creation of an open Community based on free trade and the abolition of barriers. Our partners know that and they know too that it would not have been achieved but for the leadership of the prime minister."

Opening the debate, John Smith, the shadow chancellor, challenged the government to say clearly whether the economy was in recession.

He said that Mr Major's tactic was to query the definition of recession and to suggest that an assessment could not be made when so many diffeent definitions existed. The chancellor was "shipping from one definition to another like a bird flying around a cage looking for a statistical perch to rest on".

However, in the autumn statement, Mr Major had predicted a drop in output for four quarters in succession That was a serious recession and the chancellor should stop querying and quibbling.

Mr Smith said that the government lacked credibility in the financial markets and he cited Sir Geoffrey Howe's comments about the exchange-rate mechanism.

"We now know that the prime minister only agreed to the decision in principle to join the ERM when she was cornered by the chancellor and the foreign secretary and threatened with their resignations unless she made a declaration that she would join."

Mr Smith said that the prime minister was "taken at pistol point" to join. When the prime minister appeared to disagree with his words, he added: "She is casting some doubt on the credibility of Sir Geoffrey. I think I would prefer him as a witness."

The Madrid conditions, to be met before Britain joined, had been "hocus pocus" from the start. They had been there to get the prime minister off the hook. Mr Smith asked if the hard-ecu plan was an alternative to the single currency or was an alternative means of achieving it. He quoted Mrs Thatcher as saying she did not believe that the formula would develop into a single currency; and Norman Lamont, Treasury chief secretary, saying that a single currency would be achieved more quickly by going down that path.

"Some say one thing. Some say another. No wonder ... the prime minister's difficulty is that she cannot unite the cabinet behind her European policy."

He said: "Does it or does it not lead to a single currency. Is it intended to be a failure as a policy or a success?" Unless that question was answered, the lack of credibility would remain.

Major: "What is needed is a constructive, practical approach to these important decisions"

Ridley support for Thatcher's Europe stance

By Peter Mulligan

NICHOLAS Ridley, the former trade secretary, declared strong support for the prime minister's stance on Europe yesterday and said that Sir Geoffrey Howe did not differ from her in substance.

In the second resignation speech to be delivered to the Commons in successive days, Mr Ridley said that Margaret Thatcher was right to be firm about a single European currency.

He responded to Sir Geoffrey's speech, delivered 24 hours earlier with an emphasis on a middle way, by setting out the options as the hard ecu, a compulsory single currency or leaving things roughly as they were.

Mr Ridley said: "He did not tell us what the middle way was. I have to conclude that he does not actually have a point of difference of substance with the government".

Mr Ridley, who resigned after his anti-German remarks in an interview with the *Spectator* caused widespread protest, told MPs that he did not see a middle way.

He said that he had received many letters of support, including a large number from young people, since his resignation. He described "a feeling that we were being pushed along into a single currency and that we were being bullied and in the end we would be forced to join because nobody was really taking the trouble to stop it.

"The country is very apprehensive. They want to know more about it first, but what they do know they do not like. They actually want a very firm stand to be taken."

He said that the prime minister's domestic audience preferred her style to that of Sir Geoffrey. Mrs Thatcher, he argued, was right to try to persuade the other 11 countries of the mistake that they were making, of the dangers to Europe itself and of the dangers to Britain.

"She is right to offer the hard ecu as a feasible alternative which will test whether the nations of Europe actually want to go to a single currency It leaves the option with them instead of pushing it at them."

Mr Ridley maintained that there was a strong case for persuading the other nations not to proceed with the single currecny. "If they insist, there is a very much stronger case for us opting out".

Police want new soccer powers

Police officers asked MPs yesterday for powers to search potential football hooligans outside grounds and to keep troublemakers away from matches (Sheila Gunn writes).

James Anderton, Greater Manchester chief constable, complained about the difficulty of arresting leaders of organised gangs of troublemakers who orchestrated their campaigns from outside grounds.

Giving evidence to the Commons home affairs committee, Mr Anderton suggested that exclusion orders could be extended to stop known hooligans from going anywhere near a football ground.

He also called for the four new offences against football hooligans announced by David Waddington, the home secretary, this week to be introduced in the criminal justice bill this session instead of waiting for future legislation. The offences, recommended by Lord Justice Taylor's report on the Hillsborough disaster, deal with ticket touts, pitch invasions and spectators who throw missiles or chant racist or obscene abuse.

Vacancies for 1,470 teachers

There were 1,470 vacancies for teachers in schools in England at the start of term in September, and 561 of those were in Greater London, Mr Michael Fallon, a junior education minister, said yesterday.

He said in a written answer that all 109 local education authorities had responded to an education department survey of vacancies. The figures showed that they had worked hard to fill more than 23,500 vacancies during the summer.

In a separate answer, Mr Fallon said that 21,757 students had enrolled for teacher training courses last year, compared with 16,725 in 1985.

Bird plan goes

The government's reluctant proposal to introduce licensing to allow farmers and others to kill "pest" birds only at specific times and in specific places has been dropped, Christopher Patten, environment secretary, said, because the European Commission is preparing an amendment of EC rules that will meet the problem.

Church cash

A central government grant of £11.5 million towards the cost of repairing cathedrals will enable the scheme to be established on a sound footing, Christopher Patten, environment secretary, told MPs at questions.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office; prime minister. Debate on EC documents on indirect taxes.
Lords (3): Census (Confidentiality) Bill, second reading. Debate on rural society and the archbishops' commission report *Faith in the Countryside*.

'Jam tomorrow' taunt from junior minister

MICHAEL Heseltine was accused by a minister of promising "jam tomorrow" when Labour MPs taunted the government over the prospect of a new Conservative party leader during Commons questions on the community charge.

Robert Key, junior environment minister, was responding to a suggestion by David Blunkett, the Labour MP, that the government had a problem over poll tax which it needed to address before the next general election.

Mr Blunkett did not mention Mr Heseltine by name, but Mr Key said: "I gather that Mr Heseltine is promising jam tomorrow in much the same way as we have heard the Labour party promising jam tomorrow".

Speculation that the poll tax might be swept away by a new party leader was voiced by Bryan Gould, shadow environment spokesman.

He asked Chris Patten, environment secretary, if he would be telling MPs next week that, under new leadership, the poll tax was, after all, a terrible mistake.

Mr Patten responded that Labour-controlled local authorities had "clobbered" and "fleeced" businesses with high rates in the past, putting up their bills by more than the rate of inflation year after year.

He accused Mr Gould of being coy about saying exactly how much external finance for local authorities should have been increased for next year.

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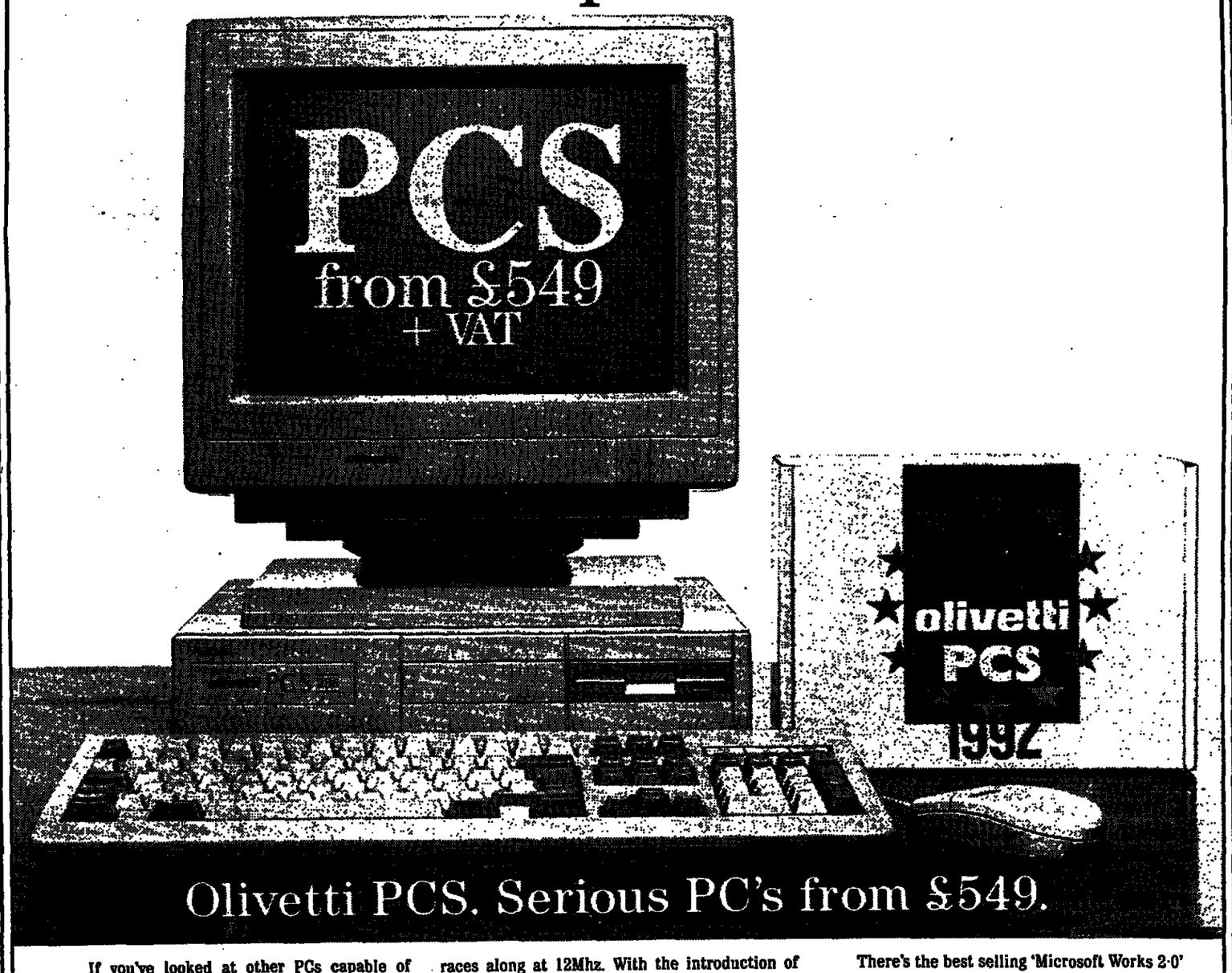

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Polish border treaty leaves expelled Germans embittered

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

GERMANY and Poland yesterday ended more than 40 years of political feuding by jointly recognising and confirming the Oder-Neisse line as the frontier between the two countries.

But Germans expelled from Eastern Europe after the second world war bitterly attacked the treaty, branding it as an illegal deal based on stalinist precedents.

Since the border is now in effect between the European Community and the rest of the continent, the accord — signed only six days after a meeting between Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish prime minister, is considerably more than a bilateral issue. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, indicated the treaty would open Poland's way into Europe. "The unequestioned border does not divide, but join. This is the beginning of a joint European mission."

In practical terms, this seems to mean that Germany will champion Poland's attempts to be affiliated with, and eventually join, the community. Herr Genscher also made plain that visa restrictions on Poles would be eased by the end of the year, and that Bonn would urge similar concessions from signatories of the Schengen agreement, smoothing travel to the Benelux countries.

The treaty and a much broader general agreement on "good neighbourly relations" — which should be ready for initialling by the new year — are seen by Poles as a test of the new Germany, helping to define whether it will be an open state, or more nationally assertive. Herr Kohl's initial hesitation about confirming the Oder-Neisse line, ahead of unification, suggested that Germany might become an uncomfortable, if not downright hostile, neighbour. But the speed with which the

Genscher: admitted that signing pact was painful

border treaty has been drafted and signed has reassured many Poles.

Herr Genscher hinted at the domestic political cost of affirming so ambiguously the Oder-Neisse line. The powerful, or at least vociferous, lobbies for the Germans expelled from the Polish territories originally thought that unification would bring them closer to their lost homes.

Herbert Hupka, the leader of a group of Germans who were driven out of Silesia in the southwest of present-day Poland, compared the post-war expulsions with Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. He said: "No new law can arise from that crime, just as Iraq cannot claim any rights on the basis of its expulsion of Kuwaitis." Mr Hupka, who said yesterday was a "black day" for expellees, demanded that Bonn win German citizenship for all ethnic Germans living in Poland when it negotiates a friendship treaty with Warsaw next year.

Herr Genscher admitted: "Today's decision has not been easy for Germans, nor for me. It was very painful, especially to those who have lost their homes."

Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish foreign minister, gave little more than a nod in this direction: "Chancellor Kohl has spoken of those who lost their homes here. That loss was the result of the aggression that destroyed the order which existed before 1939." But both sides agree that the way is open for real co-operation.

The German minority in Silesia will be recognised as such, but not given special privileges, such as dual German-Polish citizenship.

Most important for Poland is that the treaty counters the growing sense of international isolation Warsaw has been feeling in the past six months.

Berlin squatter colony stormed

From ANNE MCELVOY IN BERLIN

A SECOND night of rioting in the east Berlin district of Friedrichshain ended yesterday in 134 arrests after a dawn operation by commando police units to clear 12 occupied tenements.

Three thousand police stormed key apartments occupied by anarchist youths calling themselves the *Militante Autonomen*. Fierce fighting broke out with the squatters showering police with petrol bombs, and bars and tiles from the rooftops. Random shots were also fired.

The fighting lasted two hours with the squatters foiling a first assault. Commando units finally entered the building after scaling ropes and engaging in hand-to-hand fighting on the rooftops. Ten policemen were injured and several rioters with head wounds were carried from the scene on stretchers.

The riots marked the peak of a spiral of violence in former East Germany and are being described by city officials as the worst in ten years and more vicious than the notorious outbreaks in the Kreuzberg area of the city throughout the 1980s.

An attempt to mediate between the authorities and the squatters by Bärbel Bohley of the New Forum citizens' group, which led the campaign against the communist regime a year ago, failed.

Erich Pätzold, Berlin's interior senator, said he favoured a peaceful solution to the widespread problem of squatting in Berlin, but the brutality of those occupying the run-down buildings in Friedrichshain had made dialogue impossible. Most of those arrested were west Berliners who have moved over to the east since the opening of the border.

● BONN: The German government means to slash DM35 billion (£12 billion) from public spending next year in an effort to find the money to fund the cost of unification without resorting to unpopular tax increases (Ian Murray writes).

A sizeable amount of the saving will come from the defence budget, but other cuts, including subsidies for Berlin and the old inner German border regions, will be far less popular. Bonn is also to call on the *Länder* to contribute a higher amount to the cost of unification, Theo Waigel, the finance minister said.

Dawn raid: police commandos removing squatters from east Berlin tenements yesterday after a second night of riots

Warsaw's racist ghosts on loose

Lech Walesa has shown a dangerous ambiguity over anti-semitism in the presidential contest, **Roger Boyes says**

THERE is a scrum around the microphone. Two men are fighting to ask Lech Walesa a question. The older man wins. What does Mr Lech, whom we all love — applause — and who will be a true Polish president — applause — plan to do about this government that is being run by *zydokommuna*, communist Jews? Silence.

It is not a question, nor is it answered. The man is shoved aside. But the comment lingers.

The great contest between Mr Walesa, the Solidarity chairman, and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the prime minister, is the first American-style presidential election in Eastern Europe. It is a choice between individuals, their personal style and attitudes, not programmes (Mr Walesa insists that he has none) and there is all the razzmatazz of the modern campaign.

But appearances deceive. The techniques and the technology may be modern, but the emotions stirred up are rooted in the nationalist politics of the 1920s and 1930s, the time of the last independent Poland. It was a different country then: primarily agrarian, a multicultural place with millions of Jews, Germans and Ukranians.

Then, as now, Poland had to carve out independence in the force field between a resurgent Germany and an uncertain, inward-looking Soviet Union. The big debate of the time, between the strident Russophilic anti-semitic nationalism of Roman Dmowski and the Russophobic, yet ethnically tolerant, striving for independence of Marshal Jozef Pilsudski, has never been resolved; under communism, it was deep-frozen. Now, in the election campaign, the ghosts are again on the loose.

One of the canards of the campaign is that Mr Mazowiecki is of Jewish origin. At night teenagers deface his posters with stars of David or scratch the picture to give him a hook nose. The implication is that he is somehow less of a Pole.

Mr Walesa sometimes condemns anti-semitism during his speeches. But he does not slap down the agitators. He plays the ancestor game. Before the campaign began in earnest, he said: "I'm a real Pole. I'm not ashamed of it. Why should those of Jewish origin be ashamed of their roots?"

The roots of Polish anti-semitism are deep and tangled. Yet there are two traditions running side by side, of mutual tolerance and respect — how else did so many millions of Jews find a home in Poland over the centuries? — and of friction and resentment. Yet to revive the pre-war anti-semitism as a political weapon in the country's most important free election is particularly perverse, ignoring the fact that the Jews were mainly massacred on Polish soil, in German camps. There are barely 12,000 practising Jews left in Poland, most of them elderly.

Mr Walesa draws support from many quarters. Most are rational, frustrated citizens who want a respite from the recession, the austerity programme, the long, uninspiring haul to the market. But his noisiest backers are from the militant right-wing, the spiritual descendants of Dmowski.

The right-wing presidential candidates failed to clear the first hurdle — the gathering of 100,000 signatures — and put their bets on Mr Walesa. The Solidarity chairman wants to be a president in the Pilsudski mode. But he uses the vocabulary and reasoning of Dmowski, the simplistic line that says: "I'm Polish because I'm not Jewish." That sentiment may have served some political purpose in the 1930s when there was a huge Jewish community in Poland. But now, with almost no Jews left, it is the logic of the madhouse.

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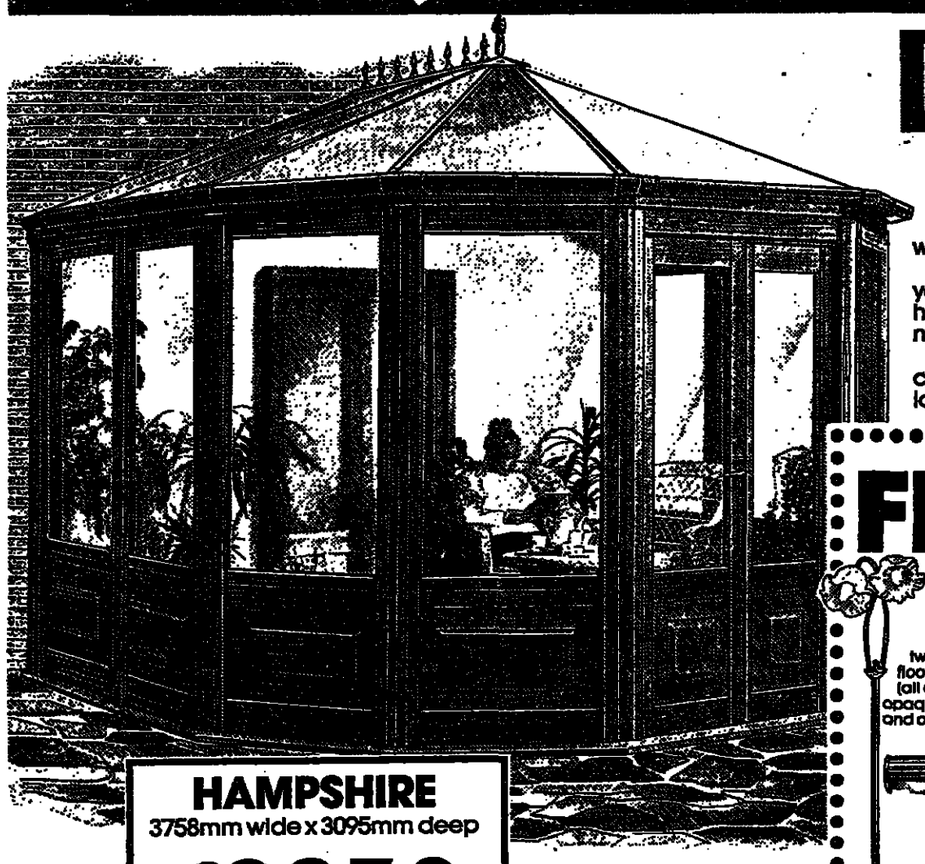

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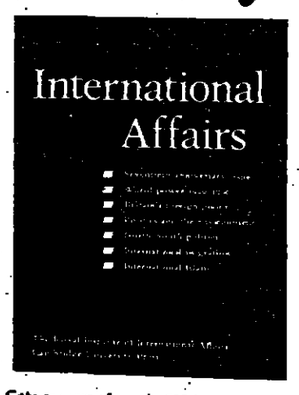

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Left and right unite as Congress awakes to risks of Gulf war

After the distractions of budget and election battles, American politicians are training their sights on White House policy over Kuwait, writes Peter Stothard, US Editor

THE captains of the US Congress are reaching out to over-ride the *man they call* "president autopilot" and to reassert control over the American *military* machine in the Gulf. The senior men of Capitol Hill, recovering *from the* rigours of budget battles and long election campaigns, have taken fright. The President's policy towards Kuwait, formerly described as a careful twin-track approach of deterrence and diplomacy, is now castigated as dangerously determinist, a computer programme pre-set for war.

Yesterday legislative leaders met Mr Bush at the White House to discuss the deepening divides over his decision to turn Operation Desert Shield into an overtly offensive force. Few congressmen admit that their ambition *is to* wrest power from the president but the reality is stark.

A team of weakened White House aides, without an agreed domestic strategy, is facing a reinvigorated Democratic opposition and a *Republican party which has* become increasingly emboldened to make policy independently of its president. For Congress as a whole, which is locked in an eternally simmering fight with the White House over the constitutional rights to declare peace and war, the temptation to make a *timely tactical gain* is enormous.

Lack of unity at the top has given greater scope *for dissenting* voices at lower levels. Currently the anti-war *movements* are an incoherent, mutually suspicious, mis-alliance of left and right, pacifists, libertarians, isolationists and liberals. The fear in the White House is that they might make common cause.

Thousands of students have demonstrated in New York and Minnesota. Radical San Francisco groups, railing against Mr Bush's *war for oil*, have *popularised* the slogan "How many males to the gallon?" But they have not yet appeared on the same platform with men such as the former Reagan and Nixon aide, Pat Buchanan, the foremost conservative critic of the Gulf action.

Mr Buchanan, whom some Republicans would like to see challenging the president in 1992, has supported *every* military action by America in his lifetime. He *would not normally share political* slogans with the anti-Vietnam activist, liberal historian and former Kennedy aide, Arthur Schlesinger. But this time, with communism dead, Mr Buchanan sees no core American interest in supporting one Arab autocrat against another. Mr Schlesinger agrees and, although the two men are not bearing placards in the same parade, both want a brake on the *president's war plans*.

Congress is not yet to be recalled to debate the latest phase of the struggle against Iraq. Congressional leaders say in public that the fullest legal backing for a war policy would strengthen the American strategy in the Gulf. But the White House has to balance the benefits of whatever backing emerged against the harm that divisive rhetoric might do. Any *strengthening of the anti-war* forces could deliver a disastrous blow to American hopes of driving Iraq from Kuwait, and virtually end hopes of overthrowing President Saddam Hussein.

Commentators are recalling that it took a combination of Hitler and Roosevelt to overcome *American isolationism in 1940*. President Saddam, whatever Mr Bush may say, is no Hitler; George Bush, even by his best friends' claims, is no FDR.

Keeping its critics apart is a key to White House strategy. Dan Quayle, the vice-president, skilfully pointed this week to the "Buchanan-McGovern *axis*". By linking his fellow right-winger to the Democratic presidential contender whom Richard Nixon destroyed in 1972, he challenged Mr Buchanan to distance himself from his new allies: which he duly, and with ill-temper, did.

But the occasional deft touch will not be enough to destroy the risk of a broad "*America First*" movement like that of the 1930s, particularly if recession deepens.

At yesterday's meeting the question of recalling Congress was postponed. But the White House may have bought only a little time. Without a more consistent case (and not just from the president, whose rhetorical powers are so poor), there is a growing risk that a *genuinely popular* opposition to the Gulf policy will emerge.

King tries to bolster Gulf troop morale amid Tories' battle

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SAUDI ARABIA

CONCERN was growing in the Saudi desert yesterday that the challenge to Margaret Thatcher's leadership of the Conservative party would appear as "the hand of Allah" to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and there were fears about the effect that any change could have on events in the Gulf.

The remarks were expressed as Tom King, the defence secretary, made his first visit to the *Seventh* Armoured Brigade, the Desert Rats, since they arrived in eastern Saudi Arabia to bolster anti-Iraqi forces.

The shadow of the contest hung heavily over the visit as Mr King, a fervent Thatcher loyalist, denied he had ever hinted *publicly that a leader*ship challenge could harm the morale of the 11,500 British troops serving with Operation Desert Shield. "I did not say that. I did not say that," Mr King insisted after climbing down from a Challenger tank after manoeuvres in the desert about 125 miles from the Kuwaiti border.

But his remarks failed to *quell unease at officer level* that any defeat for Mrs Thatcher could lessen the resolve for a military option.

Mr King said: "What I said was that we are obviously moving through a critical few weeks and there must be no doubting our resolution in *ensuring that Saddam Hus*sein does not believe that somehow we are going to be preoccupied and not absolutely committed to seeing the end of this aggression and that message is clear.

"I am reinforced in this because I shall be able to tell the troops that there is a unanimous view among the parties, there is a unanimous view in the Conservative party, on the rightness of our response and the need to recognise that while we seek a peaceful solution, if that is not reached *then the option of* force may be used."

Accompanying Mr King on the tank exercises was Lieutenant General Sir Peter de la Billière, the former *SAS* commander now in charge of *British forces in Saudi Arabia*. Asked how they had reacted to the leadership struggle, he said: "To be perfectly honest, we feel somewhat remote from it. We are busy getting on with the job which is taking us 18 hours a day whether you are a soldier who is out in his slit trench, an airman who is standing by at short notice to fly his aircraft or a sailor.

"But, undoubtedly we look for stable support from the UK. We certainly have had it up to now and I hope that the people at home and the government will continue to give us the regular support that we would expect."

A sergeant from the Scots Dragoon Guards said: "Truthfully, I do not think most of our lads care a toss about it. Anyway, most of them are supporters of the Scottish *National Party*."

Another soldier said: "Who cares if it is Thatcher or Heseltine? That is for people in London to worry about."

The remoteness of the soldiers from Westminster was emphasised when Mr King handed over the first of a hundred short-wave radios donated by the BBC. "Now we might have a better idea of *what you are all talking* about," a private said.

●**Extra forces:** Reports from Saudi Arabia suggest the 5,000-strong 4th Armoured Brigade, based in Germany and equipped with Challenger tanks, *will be the unit selected* to join the Desert Rats. Sources in London said that no decision had been made.

Sir Peter: feeling remote from Westminster struggle

ADRIAN BROOKS

Action man: Tom King, the defence secretary, leaping from a Challenger tank after watching an exercise by the Desert Rats about 125 miles from the Kuwait border

Saddam dismisses hard-man cousin from governorship

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has dismissed his cousin and long-standing confidant *as governor of Kuwait in* another sign of nerves and uncertainty by the Iraqi leader at a time of dwindling options.

Despite a surge of diplomatic activity in the region, the prospect of an emergency Arab summit to avert war in the Gulf looked increasingly unlikely yesterday with Baghdad demanding tough conditions for taking part and its opponents insisting that Iraq must first pull out of Kuwait.

Typically, no reason was given for the dismissal of Ali Hassan al-Majid, a paternal cousin of President Saddam, and his replacement by Aziz Saleh al-Nouma, an adviser of the Baath party and a former *state minister*. An Iraqi opposition leader described him as "another yes-man". News of the change was announced in the government newspaper, *al-Jumhuriya*.

Some Arab sources said that Mr al-Majid, known as the ruthless former military governor of Kurdistan, had gone too far in Kuwait and that the much-publicised reports of lawlessness, looting and rape in the occupied city could give the United States the excuse it wanted to launch an attack.

However, Mr al-Nouma's appointment did not *mean* that the Iraqi leader favoured a softer approach in Kuwait, a leader of a London-based Iraqi opposition group said. Saad Jabr said President Saddam had appointed a half-*brother*, Barzan Ibrahim al-Takriti, a former intelligence chief, to be unofficially in charge of Kuwait with orders to dismantle its infrastructure and to drive *out* the native population.

In a further sign of intransigence, Baghdad said it wanted Arab leaders to drop resolutions adopted at an earlier League of Arab States' summit in *Cairo* where a slender majority voted to send troops to join the multinational forces in the Gulf. Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraq's first *deputy prime minister, laid* down the new condition after a meeting in Rabat with King Hassan of Morocco, who had on Sunday called for a fresh summit billed as a last chance for peace. A second Iraqi envoy who visited Algiers called for preparatory talks among a few Arab states to pave the way for a summit.

The new conditions increased suspicions among Iraq's opponents that Baghdad's interest in a summit was merely a stalling tactic, designed to deflect an American attack while Arab leaders were preparing to talk peace.

In Saudi Arabia's first response to the summit proposal, Prince Saud al-Faisal, the foreign minister, said it would be a waste of time unless Iraq first agreed to pull out of Kuwait.

Syria and *Egypt*, the two other key Arab states in the anti-Iraqi alliance, share a similar view, though they have not officially responded to the *summit call*. Their leaders, President Assad and President Mubarak, met for unscheduled talks in Damascus, the Syrian capital, yesterday.

Ali Akbar Velayati, the *Iranian* foreign minister, meanwhile, flew to Baghdad for talks with Tariq Aziz, his Iraqi counterpart.

● **ANKARA:** The case of an *Iraqi military attaché, who has* been implicated in a spying incident here, has further soured relations between Turkey and Iraq. The attaché, *Brigadier Fadhil Ahmed Septi*, was named on Tuesday by a Turk who has been charged with spying for Baghdad.

Yesterday it was disclosed that the Iraqi attaché had been posted elsewhere by Baghdad. *However*, the Turkish foreign ministry could not confirm whether he had left the country.

Missing Iranians 'key to releases'

By JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO

FRESH signals that the question of the Iranians missing in Lebanon for more than eight years is a crucial issue in the hostage dilemma emerged yesterday when a prominent *Hezbollah official said* no progress can be expected until their fate is resolved.

Hussein Mousawi, the leader of the fundamentalist Islamic Amal organisation and a founding member of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, made this clear when he was asked about the release of three British hostages.

His remarks coincided with *the arrival in Lebanon of* relatives of the four Iranians thought to have been murdered after being seized by Christian gunmen in northern *Lebanon in July* 1982.

Both events enhanced the belief that Shia Muslim hardliners in Beirut and Tehran may be reviving the issue *to embarrass Lebanese Chris*tian militia leaders who are expected to join the government in Beirut.

Mr Mousawi said Britain and *the United States* should press the case of the missing Iranians. "America and Britain, which have hostages in Lebanon, should try to release the *Iranians* in order to end the issue of their hostages," he said.

There is no evidence to support claims that the Iranians are still alive.

Quayle attacks missions to free hostages

By JOE JOSEPH AND RICHARD BASSETT

DAN Quayle, the American vice-president, yesterday accused international elder statesmen, such as Edward Heath, Willy Brandt and Yasuhiro Nakasone, of playing into the hands of President Saddam Hussein by leading missions to Baghdad to free hostages.

At a meeting in Tokyo with *Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese* prime minister, Mr Quayle underlined Washington's distaste for the recent trip to Iraq by Mr Nakasone, the former Japanese prime minister, who returned to Tokyo with 74 of his countrymen. Mr Heath and Herr Brandt, the former West German chancellor, who both made similar journeys, also came under attack.

Mr Quayle said after the meeting: "We understand the humanitarian drive that is there. But we have to look at the big picture. I told the prime minister these types of visits are counter-productive. You allow Saddam Hussein to use and exploit the hostage situation to his advantage. Saddam Hussein wants to appear benevolent in releasing hostages. That is simply despicable. All hostages should be released."

The vice-president, who came to Tokyo to attend the enthronement on Monday of Emperor Akihito, also reminded Mr Kaifu that America would like Japan to have a Gulf presence in some form, even though the Tokyo parliament has failed to pass a bill that would have enabled its troops to play a non-combat role. Mr Quayle said that Japan, as an economic superpower, had certain global *responsibilities*.

Meanwhile, Amintore Fanfani, a pillar of the Italian Christian Democrat party, announced yesterday that he was considering going on a mercy mission to Baghdad.

Signor Fanfani, aged 80, said he did not expect the Italian government to bless his mission, but was adamant that he would go if it "did not create too much embarrassment" for Rome.

He said he had been approached by relatives of many of the Italian hostages still held in the Gulf, and added: "Religious and moral reflection, on hearing such requests, have naturally led me to consider the merits of the mercy mission."

Signor Fanfani admitted that his visit could undermine the EC's already questionable unity of approach towards hostages held in Iraq at a time when the Italians hold the community presidency.

US prepares Kuwaitis for revenge

From JAMES LEMOYNE IN SAUDI ARABIA

IN A desolate stretch of desert here, a team of American special-warfare advisers is helping the remnants of the Kuwaiti army regroup, rearm and prepare to fight Iraq. A visit to this *frontline* area offered what was believed to be the first look by reporters at the usually elusive American *military* trainers, including army special forces advisers who are working in Arab units and co-ordinating military operations with them.

A Kuwaiti officer said the American special warfare advisers were *teaching* a Kuwaiti armoured brigade about Iraqi *tactics* and training it to call in air strikes, neutralise Iraqi mines, destroy tanks and interrogate prisoners.

"The Americans are very good," said a *Kuwaiti army* captain who would give his name only as Ali. "They show us how to kill the Iraqi tank. *They* are very brave."

The ten members of the American military training team here declined to be specific about their work or their units, but said they had been camped here for the past two weeks. Under the military rules in force here the base's position cannot be reported.

Comments by Kuwaiti soldiers and insignia worn by the Americans indicated that several were members of the Army Special Forces, a unit trained particularly to work in small groups advising foreign army units.

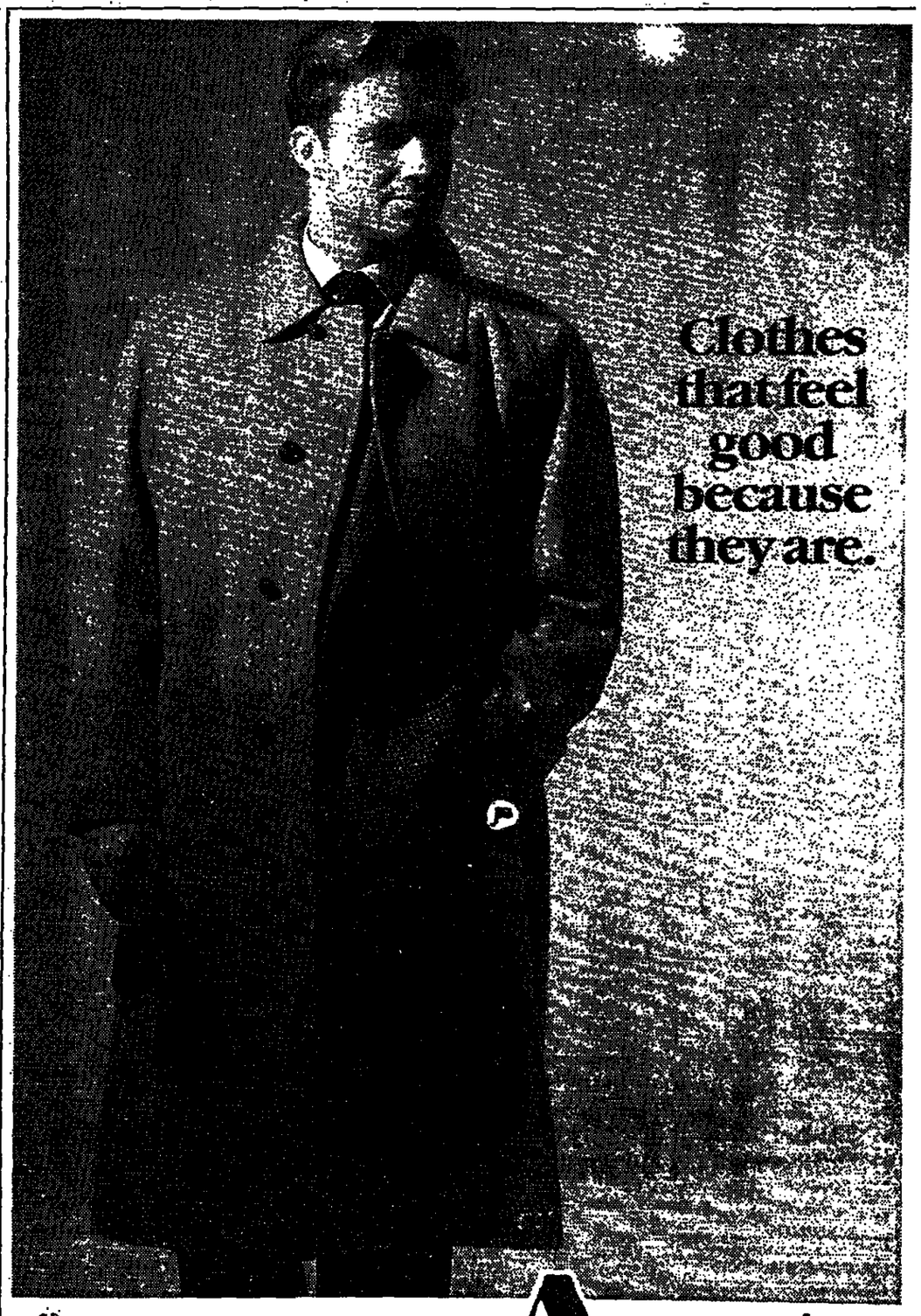
Stepping into a tent to avoid a 25mph wind of cold dust *and tumbling desert debris* that cut visibility to a hundred yards, the American advisers said they were confident that the Kuwaitis would fight well if the order came to attack Iraqi positions across the border. "They are very competent," the commander of *the team said*. "All *they are* waiting for is the word."

Other advisers had strong feelings about training Kuwaitis. "This is more like a family operation," said Staff Sergeant Barry Sparlin, aged 29, from Houston, Texas. "We're very close." Asked why America should spend lives and resources here, he said, referring to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq: "We've got a man here with *chemical weapons and bio*logical weapons who wants to build nuclear weapons. Here and now, right now, is the time to take him out."

A Kuwaiti tank commander said his unit had fought the Iraqis when they invaded in August, battling for nine hours before running out of ammu*nition and withdrawing into* Saudi Arabia.

The Kuwaiti unit here is formally known as the 35th Brigade, but has been renamed by its survivors as the Martyrs' Brigade, two officers said. When asked how he felt about having left his country in the face of the invasion, Captain Ali said: "It is a little bit shameful to me. I want to be in front when we attack them. I want revenge."

(New York Times)



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West wins 'insurance clause' in arms treaty

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Soviet Union has been persuaded to accept a last-minute "non-circumvention" clause in the conventional arms treaty to be signed in Paris next week, following Western concern over the thousands of tanks which have been transferred east of the Ural mountains. This is beyond the region to be covered by the treaty.

About 16,000 Soviet tanks, included in the original data provided by Moscow during the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) negotiations in Vienna, have now been moved to the other side of the Urals, the geographical dividing line for the treaty.

In Paris on Monday, 34 leaders from the member states of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) will be meeting for a three-day summit. The highlight will be the signing of the CFE treaty, negotiated by the 22 countries of Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

According to diplomatic sources, the Soviet Union is expected to produce new data, listing only about 20,000 tanks for inclusion as treaty-limited items. The previous figure was 36,000.

Under the CFE agreement, the two alliances are to reduce their tank totals from the Atlantic to the Urals to 20,000 each, with no one country allowed more than 12,000. But, under a so-called "sufficiency rule", worked out between the members of the Warsaw Pact and agreed by Nato, the Soviet Union is to be allowed to keep 13,150 tanks in the region. After the shipment of tanks across the Urals, Moscow will have to destroy about 7,000 tanks, instead of the 13,000 originally anticipated by the West.

Western diplomats do not believe Moscow is deliberately trying to subvert the spirit of the arms control agreement. Nevertheless, Nato negotiators have succeeded in including a clause which makes it clear that if Moscow redeploys a strategically significant number of tanks, or any other equipment covered by the treaty, just outside the defined area, the alliance reserves the right to withdraw from the treaty.

The clause could be said to be an insurance policy against the possibility of a more reactionary regime taking over from President Gorbachev.

Yesterday one senior Western diplomatic source said: "The Soviets have told us at very high level that they have not moved the tanks and other treaty-limited equipment for any sinister reason. They anticipate destroying many of them anyway, and have already started. But, because they have so many to destroy, they want more than the 40 months allowed them under the CFE treaty. Moving them out of the treaty area will give them more time. We sympathise with their problem."

Most of the Soviet tank production factories are also east of the Urals. "So it's probably more convenient for them to have the tanks there," one source said. A third reason given is that Moscow will want to relace the old T54s and T55s deployed east of the Urals with their newer T72s. "That's perfectly legitimate," the source said.

Under the CFE treaty, the Soviet Union will be allowed to keep, in the area west of the Urals, 13,150 tanks, 20,000 armoured combat vehicles, 13,175 artillery pieces, 1,500 combat helicopters and 5,150 combat aircraft, with an additional 400 land-based naval aircraft.

Moscow gunman 'aimed at Gorbachev'

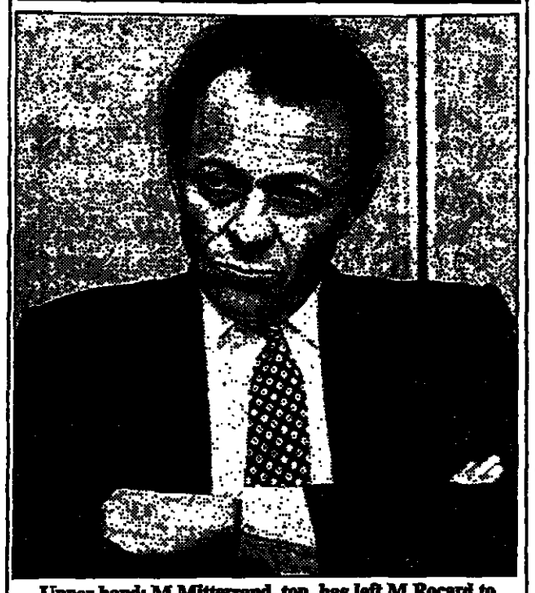
From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

LAST week's shooting incident during the October Revolution anniversary parade in Red Square was more serious than was previously admitted and may have been an attempt to assassinate President Gorbachev.

Sergeant Andrei Mylnikov, aged 28, the policeman who detected and disarmed the gunman, told a press conference in Moscow that he had spotted a man standing slightly apart from the main civilian parade. He said he saw him produce a double-barrelled hunting rifle and aim directly at the stand on top of the Lenin mausoleum where Mr Gorbachev and other leaders were gathered.

When he saw the man produce the gun, he said, "I was about three metres (10ft) away from him. I rushed towards him and reached for the rifle barrel with both hands, pushing it into the air. That was when the first shot was heard. Then I pushed the rifle so that it was pointing away from the crowd, in the direction of the GUM department store. That was when the second shot fired, over the heads of the guards who had by then surrounded him."

The alleged gunman, Aleksandr Simonov, aged 39, from Leningrad, is in solitary confinement under KGB arrest. He faces a charge of attempted terrorism.



Upper hand: M Mitterrand, top, has left M Rocard to take the blame for France's education problems

Rocard is pushed into firing line

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

WHEN it comes to political knife-work, President Mitterrand has a masterly touch. With his government coming under attack for having failed to order more effective police measures against hooligans who rioted during last Monday's protest march through Paris by school students, he has deftly manoeuvred Michel Rocard, the prime minister, into the line of fire.

No sooner had M Rocard returned from attending the coronation of Japan's emperor than he found himself once more the target of damaging rumours that his number might be up. And while the conservative opposition is baying for blood, the prime minister's real problem appears, not for first time, to be in the Elysée Palace.

The trouble began when the president, sniffing the wind, decided it was prudent to demonstrate solidarity with the teenage *lycéens* who have been demonstrating in vast numbers for drastic improvements in the French secondary education system. While pitched battles raged in the centre of Paris on Monday evening, he invited a delegation of pupils around to the Elysée for a chat about what was should be done.

After an hour, the students emerged saying that M Mitterrand had expressed agreement with their claims. "It is now up to Rocard's government to get on the job and do something for our schools," one of them observed, thereby passing the prime minister — knowingly or otherwise — the hot potato that Lionel Jospin, the education minister, had been juggling with in growing despair.

As ever, M Mitterrand's timing was perfect: the Socialists are still battling to get their 1991 budget through an increasingly hostile National Assembly with the possibility of a no-confidence vote next week. If the Communists carry out their threat to jump ship and support the opposition motion, M Rocard could be left alone for the first time in his two-and-a-half years in power.

M Mitterrand's strategy of switching blame for the education problems to his prime minister reflects a renewed eagerness to be rid of M Rocard. As for M Rocard, the reseatment of knowing that M Mitterrand's magic circle frequently disparage his qualities has understandably put iron in his soul.

If the mainstream conservatives were not even more divided than usual, the government would be in grave danger.

Libyan activist living in Britain

A well-known Libyan activist, who has helped co-ordinate Colonel Muammar Gadaffi's economic links with the Irish Republic, has slipped back into Britain and is living in Liverpool (Andrew Lycett and Andrew McEwen write).

According to Libyan sources, Tayyib as-Safi, aged 37, has been in Britain for three weeks. He is said to be here on a nine-month training course. He is on secondment from a Libyan oil company and calling himself Tayyib Minafi, a name referring to his tribe rather than family.

In another development, two British MPs yesterday began talks with counterparts in Tripoli on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The delegation is the first to be sent by the British branch of the Inter-Parliamentary Union since Colonel Gaddafi seized power in 1969. Its presence is a limited gesture implying appreciation by Britain of Tripoli's opposition to the invasion of Kuwait, although Libya also rejects the presence of Western troops in Saudi Arabia. The move is not likely to lead to a softening of the British attitude to Col Gaddafi.

Sir Michael Marshall (Conservative, Arundel) and Martin Redmond (Labour, Don Valley) were due to meet members of the General People's Congress, which was readmitted to the IPU a year ago. In a letter to *The Times* yesterday, Prince Idris Al Senussi, a relative of King Idris, who was overthrown by Colonel Gadaffi in September 1969, questioned the timing of Sir Michael's visit.

Sudan coup fails

Dubai — A coup attempt in Sudan has failed and the military government is carrying out mass arrests, Sudanese opposition sources and two Gulf newspapers said. The attempt, the fourth against the 16-month-old government of General Omar Hassan al-Bashir, was crushed a few days ago, according to the reports. Two former ministers were among the alleged plotters rounded up. *(Reuter)*

Ukraine leader

Kiev — The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has elected Vitol Fokin, aged 58, as its new prime minister. Mr Fokin, well respected and described as being on the liberal wing of the Communist party, acted as prime minister after the humiliating resignation last month of Vitali Masol, who was forced from his job by mass protests and a student hunger strike.

Court defied

Athens — Andreas Papandreou, Greece's former socialist prime minister for eight years, defiantly rejected a summons to answer criminal charges against him in a bank scandal. He said the charges, which prompted his 1989 election defeat, were part of a political vendetta being waged against the socialists by the present New Democracy conservative government and the Communist party. *(Reuter)*

Ship grounded

Manila — Jacques Cousteau's research ship, Calypso, ran aground during the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines this year, but the French underwater explorer, aged 80, was not on board. The coast guard said the converted minesweeper had been forced aground by strong winds and rough seas caused by Typhoon Mike, off the central island of Mindoro, but it had no reports of any casualties. *(Reuter)*

Dutch reduce age of consent to 12

From MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

CHANGES in Dutch vice law, effectively lowering the age of consent to 12 years, have received almost unanimous support from the country's lower House and are expected to become law shortly, pending approval by the upper House.

The contents of the bill have caused more concern outside The Netherlands than within, and have been misunderstood. Elizabeth Rensman, a spokesman for the justice ministry, said yesterday: "At the moment the public prosecutor can use his discretion on cases involving sexual intercourse with children aged between 12 and 16, and can and does decide not to prosecute if both partners have consented to the intercourse."

The ministry maintained that the aim of the new proposals was to give extra protection to minors. Under the new bill, children can report sexual abuse to the police and the Child Protection Council can act independently on a tip-off. At the moment, only complaints made by parents or legal guardians are considered by the public prosecutor. This has proved a serious stumbling block, especially in reporting cases of incest, which form a large proportion of child abuse crimes.

The bill also extends the time allowed for reporting sexual abuse from three months to 12 years. "This takes into account the fact that many children who have been abused find it difficult even to speak about the incident for many years, and it will give a more effective chance of prosecution," Miss Rensman said.

The amendments, which also aim to make rape in marriage illegal, do not advocate higher penalties for committing sexual crimes. Rape still carries a maximum prison sentence of 12 years and illegal intercourse with children aged between 12 and 16, eight years.

However, the moves may also fuel the country's production and distribution of child pornography.

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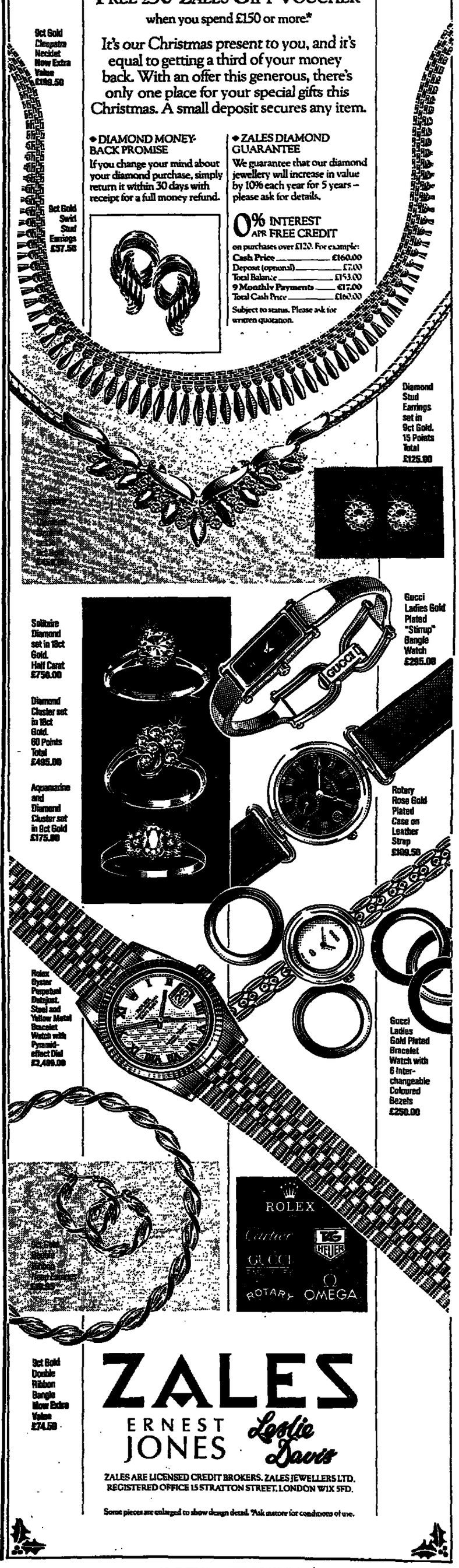

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The late Malcolm Muggeridge on the craft that kept him so long in the public eye

A lifetime's love affair

It is a fearful thing to contemplate the output of 40 years of journalism. Let us suppose an average daily stint of about one thousand words. The total runs into millions. One has written the Bible and the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* many times over. Add to this the spoken words on radio and television, and one moves into astronomical figures: a vast verbal outpouring, dealing, for the most part, with topics of no present relevance — notices of books and plays whose authors have long been forgotten, editorials on once burning controversies which now matter to no one, obituaries already out-of-date when their subjects died. Appeals, exhortations, solemn warnings, tributes; massive features and tiny gossip parts; every variety of shape, size and substance.

Why then, engage in a *récherche des mots perdus*? Surely the glory of journalism is its transience. Let ridiculous dons — a Rowse, a Leavis — persuade themselves that their convoluted sentences will continue to assail posterity as they have defenceless undergraduates in their lifetime. The journalist may take a saner view. He knows that what he writes exists only to be melted down and dispersed like the metal on which it is stamped. Each night the same climax reached, with the same languid aftermath.

The rotary presses beginning to turn, like a heart ardently beating; poring over damp, limp galleys, shouting, pushing, heaving, and lo! the edition is out. In the grey morning light, hands push it through letter-boxes, deposit it beside milk bottles. Then, propped up on breakfast tables, read rocking to and fro in railway carriages, gymnastically held up to view in buses; by midday at the latest, finished and thrown aside, thenceforth useful only for lighting fires, wrapping fish and stopping broken windows.

With all its frustrations and limitations, I cannot imagine engaging in any other profession. Some of the excitement has survived from the first time, so many years ago now, that I opened a newspaper and read in it words I had written. From earliest childhood it always seemed to me that the only thing worth doing in life was to write. Before I knew my letters I had a printing-set, and delighted in their shapes even though I could not identify them. It was part of the romanticism, not to say priggishness, of my generation to consider all artistic and scholarly achievements as infinitely preferable to any others; to the point that even now it seems to me quite extraordinary when someone with intellectual pretensions expresses admiration for a general or a millionaire or a politician as such.

It all began for me in Cross Street, Manchester, with the (as it then was) *Manchester Guardian*, under C.P. Scott; a venerable but still sprightly figure in his eighties, with pink cheeks, a ribald beard and bright eyes. At his behest, we leader-writers produced our nightly offerings, conscious — I dare say too conscious — of being the voice of reason and righteousness in an unreasonable, unrighteous world.

Many an uplifting sentence did I tap out and lay on Scott's desk, expressing the hope that moderate men of all shades of opinion would draw together, and that wiser counsels might yet prevail. The people of this country, I thundered, will not tolerate — just precisely what I now forget.

The next scene of my incubrations was Moscow, where I acted as *Guardian* correspondent. Here, hopes that wiser counsels might yet prevail were difficult, if not impossible, to sustain, and moderate men of all shades of opinion had a way of disappearing into Lubianka Prison, never to be seen again. Stalin, I came to realise, was no C.P. Scott. In the shadow of the Kremlin, my typewriter acquired a shrill, querulous note.

After a time in Calcutta, I transferred to Shoe Lane to toil on the late Lord Beaverbrook's behalf on the *Evening Standard* Londoner's Diary. No-one's education is complete without a spell as a gossip writer. How otherwise is it possible to know the minutiae of human vanity; that passion which, in the Century of the Common Man, to a greater or lesser extent afflicts everyone: to be known as an uncommon man?

Round the corner from Shoe Lane stands the office of *The Daily Telegraph*, where the first Lord Camrose devised, with great skill and acumen, the perfect reading-matter to occupy a stockbroker between Tunbridge Wells Central and Cannon Street. There I managed to lurk with a degree of ease and satisfaction, first in the Fleet Street office, and then in Washington. My typewriter tapped sturdily away, competing with the ticker-tape in the corner, which likewise tapped sturdily away, ejecting great yellow piles of news upon which, from time to time, I had to make desperate assaults.

Next I became editor of *Punch*. It was a sombre place, haunted by old jokes and lost laughter. Life, as I was to discover, holds no more wretched occupation than trying to make the English laugh, and it was with relief that I went past the figure of Mr Punch and out through the door for the last time. Never again would I be under the professional necessity of being funny.

The succeeding years have been singularly happy ones. There is nothing serious under the sun except love; of fellow-mortals and of God. Everything is ridiculous save ecstasy. So, at any rate, I should like to think and feel and write during the brief span which still remains to me.

This is an edited extract from the introduction to Tread Softly for You Tread on My Jokes *(1966).*

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

Brand's A1 Sauce label was best; people used not to mind sitting waiting for food in cafés when there was so much to learn from the bottle: it told of George Brand, master chef to King George III, who "was always trying to tickle the Royal palate with new and mouthwatering creations. One day he produced a sauce of rare succulence; 'Brand,' said the king, 'this sauce is A1'. And so it has remained to this day."

A number of things about this narrative worried me: the state of the monarch's mind at the time of the occurrence (he officially lost his marbles in 1788), also whether chef Brand was standing in the royal dining room or His Majesty was eating in the kitchen — details like that, but it was a good read.

I mention this because Lee and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce has a new message on its label. The sauce "has always been a name to conjure with", it now declares. The French, who recently bought the company, could do little else with the name, for "W" is not a letter in common use among our friends at the optimistic end of the tunnel. "*Double V comme William,*" is how you begin when asked to spell Worcestershire, though on reflection I don't know too many French Williams. Our Shakespeare springs to mind, "S comme Suzanne, H comme Henri, A comme Anatol ..." My *Harrap's New Shorter French/English Dictionary* devotes less than half a page to words commencing with W. There is *wagon*, as in *wagon-bar, wagon-lit* and *wagon-restaurant*; then *walkover*, like walkover when there is no contest, as will not occur next Tuesday. Also *water* — "*où sont les waters?*" meaning "where is the toilet?" Then *weekend, western, wharf, whisky, whist, wigwam* and *wolfram*. On the French keyboard "W" loses the top-row position it has on a QWERTY.

I liked HP sauce because of the good picture of the Houses of Parliament on the label; this has now shrunk, and the words "When Garton's HP Sauce was first invented over 80 years ago it was an immediate success ... HP sauce is also sold in 100 countries" is the work of a tired copywriter, in a different league from the one who laboured lovingly on green label sauce: "Since our founder A.J. Sharwood first astonished the world with his green label chutney, there has been nothing quite to equal that taste ..."

Burgess finest Mushroom Ketchup label ignores history, concentrates on uses — "As a marinate" it suggests (meaning marinade) — and lists ingredients. These have to be stated in order of plenitude. In Burgess's, water is first, mushrooms second; I hope it was a close-run thing.

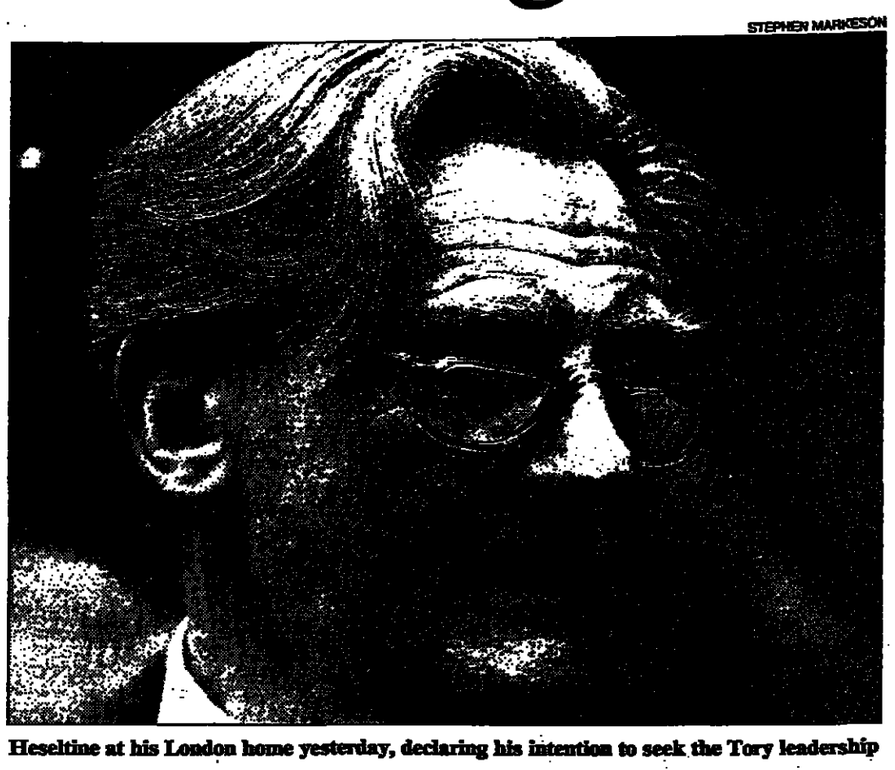
The new trend in label-writing is intended to persuade the consumer of the responsible and environmentally-conscious attitude of the manufacturer. I would like to put in a word for Sainsbury's South Seas Tuna Steak in Soya Oil, "specially selected from Pacific catches", which makes one wonder who sells the stuff they reject. "Sainsbury's tuna", it continues, "is caught with a pole and line, thus avoiding danger to other marine life". Being a Pacific tuna sounds like real fun when Sainsbury's folk are around.

The most memorable words were those on the liquorice allsorts packets of my youth: Bertie Bassett, a hard-working North Country confectioner, one afternoon served a small boy with a twist of desiccated coconut, then sold a ha'porth of liquorice to another child. He was a tidy man, was Bassett, and on seeing small spillages of the two sweetmeats on his counter, he wetted his finger, picked up the morsels and popped them in his mouth. "Delicious," he said, and built a factory.

It was fairytale stuff and I spent many years popping diverse foodstuffs into my mouth, hoping to discover something for the production of which I could build a factory. The nearest I came was when I dropped a salted cashew nut into a glass of Benedictine — which did quite a lot for the nut though insufficient to start a business.

Why I challenge Thatcher

STEPHEN MARKESON



Heseltine at his London home yesterday, declaring his intention to seek the Tory leadership

Michael Heseltine, interviewed by Robin Oakley, sets out his qualifications to unite Conservative MPs on Europe and to win back disaffected voters

Michael Heseltine is offering himself as leader of the Conservative party on the grounds that he can reach voters whom Mrs Thatcher can no longer reach.

He argues that he has the experience of friendly but effective persuasion in European negotiations that can transform Britain's relations with the EC and so win for us a voice in the shaping of economic and monetary union, in the process preserving London's status as Europe's most important financial centre.

His ministerial record, he says, shows that he could conduct a more genuine form of cabinet government than Mrs Thatcher does; his years on the backbenches since leaving the cabinet over the Westland affair in 1986 have enabled him to widen his contacts, especially at the grassroots level, and develop his thinking.

Why would the Conservatives have a better hope under him than under a leader who had already won three elections?

"I will be able to establish in the cabinet a policy for Europe behind which the overwhelming majority of the parliamentary party can unite. Mrs Thatcher made a remarkable contribution to the 1980s, but in the way of things, the young generation in particular is looking to the '90s for at least a new style, at least a new language. Opinion polls tell us that if I were leader of the party, we would regain the votes of a very substantial number of people who used to vote Conservative but now say they won't as long as Mrs Thatcher is leader."

Asked what qualities he would bring to the job, Mr Heseltine says that is not something easy for him to answer. "I have taken pride in the fact that Mrs Thatcher thought I was an appropriate person to be environment secretary, one of the great home departments, responsible for many environmental services and the acute difficulties of urban poverty. Then, in the light of my performance there, she felt I was the right person to be secretary of state for defence, and she reappointed me after the 1983 election.

"I have a very considerable experience both of administering the largest government departments and of communicating government policy in a way that was recognised at the time as successful. I was at the forefront of the 1979 election campaign. I was responsible for the policy of selling council houses, which was announced in my constituency on the eve of the election battle."

"In 1983 I played a critical role in countering the arguments of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

"I have been able to articulate not just the virtues of government policies, but something of the philosophy that underlies the long success of the Conservative party. One of the reasons I now receive far more invitations to speak to Conservatives locally than I had as a minister is that I have been able to widen my political contacts and deepen my political philosophy in a way that is difficult for serving ministers."

Asked if his appeal lies in his ability to win, rather than his policies, Mr Heseltine says: "Winning is fundamental. There is little purpose in opposition politics if you never have the opportunity to carry out ideas. But winning is not enough. Britain has to come to terms with great political and environmental changes and to forge a new relationship with our EC partners.

"We must learn to live within the institutions that bind us together, because we can gain more inside those institutions than we can outside.

"If you are going to be members of a club, a team or a partnership, the only way to promote your self-interest is by persuading your colleagues. If you are in a minority of one, you may have protected an essential interest but you have not added to it by persuading your colleagues to change their ways to accommodate wider opportunity for all."

Mr Heseltine gives specific examples of his record on European cooperation to Britain's benefit. "I have had very substantial experience in winning for Britain in Europe. Creating the European Space Agency was my idea. Out of that Britain achieved leadership in communications satellite. I was responsible for negotiating the sale of Tornado aircraft to Saudi Arabia as a European project and was successful in persuading Germany, Italy and Spain to back the British Aerospace European Fighter Aircraft when they were previously inclined to back the French. None of this could have happened unless I had established first-class relationships with politicians of the countries concerned. No one ever accused me of selling out British interests."

On economic and monetary union, Mr Heseltine says his whole approach is geared to helping to maintain the City of London as the world's third most important financial centre. "I cannot conceive of us maintaining that position outside EMU. I believe we have to be powerful contributors to the debate about reform of EMU. It is the only way Britain can win, and I don't apologise for these nationalistic attitudes. I learned them after long hours of negotiation with my European colleagues."

Bernard Levin's column has been held over.

What are the essential differences between him and Mrs Thatcher on Europe?

"Britain is committed by treaty and act of Parliament to the vague concepts of EMU. There is nothing new here. But I don't find it necessary to describe these concepts in language designed to prevent people from taking them seriously, rather than persuading them to explore whether evolution is possible.

"As our European colleagues are going to do this thing whether we like it or not, and as the City of London's future is at stake in what they decide, I don't regard it as appropriate to use the terminology of getting on or off trains. It is a fight to preserve what we have."

But what of national sovereignty? Which areas of policy would he wish to see preserved for individual nations to decide for themselves? And where would he apply the doctrine of subsidiarity?

This, he says, can be decided only in terms of attitude. Each issue must be decided on merit as it comes up. "Where something can best be determined at national level, so be it. Maybe it is better to decide some things even more locally than that. It is one of the arguments I used on council house sales, precisely because you are pushing power to the rim. That is a philosophy I strongly support."

Where does he think cabinet government had broken down?

"The arguments Geoffrey Howe so devastatingly deployed are very similar to those of Nigel Lawson in his resignation speech and are reminiscent of my own departure four years ago. The similarities are not a coincidence.

"Mrs Thatcher has strong views on Europe which I do not believe reflect those of her cabinet. If they did, we would not have seen those resignations. If, after a proper dialogue, she had agreed with her cabinet a European policy to which all remained committed, there would not have been any problems.

"As Sir Geoffrey pointed out, for us all to back John Major over the hard ecu — as I did and many colleagues did — only to hear the prime minister say that she doesn't think it would work, is to put the Chancellor in a difficult negotiating position by alerting the Europeans whom he has to persuade to how little credibility the British government sees in what he is saying."

But would a cabinet under Mr Heseltine be any less autocratic?

"Anyone who has looked at my style of management in two of the largest departments knows I am much given to evoking ideas, consulting widely, listening carefully and then reaching a decision. That attitude to management was embodied in the systems I introduced to Whitehall. It was essentially about full exposure of information and a detailed dialogue about it. That is my style."

Does he feel it is fair to describe him as a businessman's politician harking back to the corporatism of the 1960s?

"No. I shake my head in disbelief. Such accusations were conjured out of the air after I left the government by people who were not around then or who had forgotten what I did. No one ran down the number of civil servants faster than I did — 13,000 at the Department of Environment over four years. No one killed off more quangos — half of those I took on in 1979. No one subjected defence industries to more competition than I did, securing dramatic improvements in value for money.

"I was responsible for the foundation stone of privatisation programme, the sale of council houses. I was the person who persuaded the cabinet to legislate for contractor management as a new form of privatisation in the royal dockyards. I was also responsible for the foundation of enterprise agencies across the country.

"It was I who brought the private sector back into the battle to fight urban squalor. This yielded hundreds of millions of pounds in addition to what the public sector could afford.

"If people think selling Tornadoes, creating the European Fighter Aircraft and backing the Airbus is corporatism, then I have to say that as I travel the world, I find that our competitors shake their heads with disbelief at a country that is fighting for its economic life yet indulges in such semantics."

One issue on which Mr Heseltine hopes to appeal to MPs is revision of the poll tax, which he says menaces many Conservative seats. But how would he change it?

He cannot argue for effective cabinet government, he says, and at the same time offer a blueprint for change in the middle of a leadership election. "But", he goes on, "I believe that in the fundamental review that is necessary for the fortunes of the party electorally, there should be two thoughts. One is that the community charge must be seen to be fair and must therefore reflect people's ability to pay. The second is that if when we investigate it we decide that there is no substantial alternative way to deal with the problem, we might consider transferring educational costs in whole or in part to central government over a period of time as economic growth makes this possible."

Mr Heseltine says that reform of the poll tax runs alongside the growing preoccupation with standards of education.

"If we look at the more deprived areas, it must be apparent that in addressing the quality issue, the present relationship between central and local government does not look promising. The social infrastructure of those communities does not make them a natural recruiting ground for people who are going to take over local management of the schools. We might have to adopt a greater urgency and take on more responsibility in central government, to bring the insistence on standards that is essential for our competitive future."

With some ministers prepared to play the Gulf card, what of the accusation that it is unpatriotic for him to make his challenge at a time when British troops are engaged abroad?

He responded: "The views I have publicly expressed on the Gulf are identical to the views of the prime minister and the Foreign Secretary." On that vital enterprise there would be no change of policy.

Now that Mr Heseltine has embarked on his challenge to Mrs Thatcher after four years outside her government, and with relations between them cooler than ever, was there anything Mrs Thatcher might have said to him as he walked out of her cabinet in 1986 that would have induced him to turn round and rejoin the team?

"Yes," he replied: "She could have said 'Let's discuss it'."

In the forthcoming contest, might not the party suffer if Mrs Thatcher were wounded without being ousted? What then would be gained for the party? Mr Heseltine maintains simply that "Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech raises issues that can be effectively only resolved within the context of a leadership challenge. What he said is material to our long-term self-interest as a nation."

DIARY

Will money talk enough?

Only his personal fortune has enabled Michael Heseltine to maintain his five-year bid for the Tory leadership, many of his supporters freely admit. With an estimated £60 million, he is the richest man in the Commons, and he is reckoned to have spent at least £100,000 a year on his unofficial campaign since he stalked out of the cabinet in January 1986.

In addition to three office staff at Westminster — more than most members of the shadow cabinet employ — Heseltine has a constituency secretary and a chauffeur. The chauffeur was his official driver when Heseltine was a member of the cabinet and is today perhaps the most important member of the team.

Heseltine often addresses four Conservative associations a week, sometimes at opposite ends of the country. The Jaguar which he traded in for a new model in September had clocked up 72,000 miles on party business in two years. Friday evenings, a favourite for Tory meetings, are booked up 12 months in advance and he does not have a spare lunchtime date until February. Every weekday evening throughout parliamentary sessions is booked for dinners with backbench colleagues or Tory pressure groups. Only on Sundays does he rest.

Sir Anthony Meyer, who devoted far less money and effort to his leadership campaign last year, says: "It has been an intensive campaign of gladhanding, and it has been incredibly expensive. If it had not been for Michael's resources he would have needed an outside backer, which would not have been so effective."

Robert Worcester, chairman of Mori, the polling organisation, says: "At some meetings he has addressed only 30 activists. It's like the American rubber-chicken circuit for presidential aspirants: you visit as many towns and cities as possible, eat rubber-chicken dinners and make speeches. It has paid dividends." Today, as his lieutenants at Westminster do the arm-twisting, Heseltine is striding out to the high ground: campaigning in the Tory cause in the two Paisley by-elections.

Making history

Whatever the outcome of this second challenge to Mrs Thatcher's leadership, it is already clear that no prime minister in recent history has been so openly undermined by those within her own party. "It is hard to think of any precedent," says historian Ben Pimlott, currently writing a biography of Harold Wilson. "There were endless plots against Wilson in the late Sixties, but none ever came to an open contest." Attlee, too, led a cabinet given to intrigue and fought off a number of behind-the-scenes moves to oust him, involving, among others, Dalton, Cripps and George Brown. The nearest any came to success was in 1945 when, immediately after Labour's general election victory, Herbert Morrison argued that Labour MPs should vote on the leadership before forming a government. But Attlee was no fool. "He was already halfway to the Palace", says Pimlott.

For the Conservatives, he points out, the situation is unique, because until 1975 Conservative MPs did not have a vote on the matter. "The irony is that democracy has, until now, made it harder to get rid of an incumbent. If the leader were still chosen by the old secretive system of the party grandees, they would have got rid of her long ago."

Trouville trouvaille

The evocative feel of the seaside in Monet's masterpiece *The Beach at Trouville*, due to go on display at the National Gallery later this month, is, it seems, the result of more than simply oil on canvas.

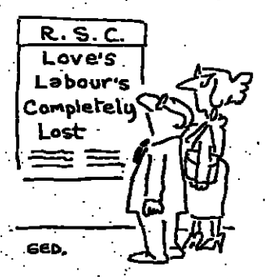
"A great variety of multi-coloured shell fragments were discovered under the microscope. We discovered that the whole picture is speckled with sand," says John Leighton, the curator of 19th-century paintings, after cleaning the painting. Originally the sand was touched out after the painting was completed in 1870, and disguised by a layer of coloured varnish. Near the bottom of the canvas, which depicts Monet's wife and the wife of the painter Eugene Boudin sitting by the beach, are three especially thick sand clusters that look like fingerprints.

"The sand is really very obvious and quite dramatic. It not only provides a physical record of the painter's presence, but reinforces the spontaneity of the image," says Leighton. But while most of the sand lies on the top of the paint surface, some particles were mixed in with the paint. "It seems Monet probably got sand on his palette and on the painting while he worked on the beach."

Alas, poor William

The Barbican bosses may not know it yet, but the RSC is back in town and about to perform the entire canon of Shakespeare plays at the Lilian Baylis Theatre. But before booking your seats, be warned. This is the Reduced Shakespeare Company. Comprising three American actors, it decided to step into the breach when the lights went out on the other RSC at the Barbican.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), which goes on stage next month, consists of the Bard's works boiled down into a two-hour presentation. "There are 36 plays before the interval and one play afterwards," says a spokeswoman. "Each play is treated differently. *Romeo and Juliet* is done as a Marx Brothers routine, while *Titus Andronicus* becomes a gourmet cookery demonstration." *Hamlet* gets what is described as a special "audience participation" treatment. "Yes", says the spokeswoman. "Yorick gets chucked into the audience."



Homeward hound

To add to President Gorbachev's troubles, the outspoken dissident Vladimir Bukovsky intends returning to Moscow to join in the agitation against the president's beleaguered regime. Bukovsky, who lives in Cambridge, spent 12 years in a Soviet prison before he was expelled in handcuffs in 1977 in exchange for an imprisoned Chilean communist. In exile he has continued his attacks and remains unimpressed by glasnost.

"I am one of the few people in the West who believe Gorbachev is a scoundrel trying to save his skin and as much of the existing system as possible," he says. Next week he attends a meeting in Strasbourg organised by Tory MEP Lord Bethell at which he will discuss opposition to Gorbachev with three anti-communist members of the Supreme Soviet.

Whether or not Bukovsky makes it to Moscow depends on the Supreme Soviet nullifying his official categorisation as a state criminal; without that, he runs the risk of being required to complete the six years outstanding on his original prison sentence. Boris Yeltsin has told Bukovsky that a draft law should have been passed enabling him to travel by the end of the year. But not even Yeltsin escapes the lash of Bukovsky's tongue: "He says he wants to form a coalition government with Gorbachev. That's the stupidest thing he could do, and I have no intention of helping him."

Discord of time

Among the tributes to Malcolm Muggeridge comes one from someone who did not speak to him for 17 years, the novelist Anthony Powell. Previously close friends, they fell out over Muggeridge's savage review of Powell's *The Valley of Bones* in 1964. Happily the estrangement ended when Powell wrote in flattering terms of Muggeridge's diaries, *Like It Was*, in 1981.

Powell, now 84, recalls: "He wrote me a line afterwards and was very funny and agreeable about it. He was a tricky customer who could have sudden, unexpected rows with people close to him. But he could be tremendously amusing, with wonderful qualities. I didn't approve, though, of all those photographs of him on his knees praying."

● *While Nigel Lawson, Sir Norman Fowler and other former cabinet colleagues were much in evidence for Sir Geoffrey Howe's Commons speech on Tuesday, one recent casualty was notably absent: Nicholas Ridley. Given the circumstances of his resignation, the reason for his absence could hardly have been more inappropriate. He was in Brussels, visiting a mint where the ecu coin is produced.*

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 14: By command of The Queen, the Lord Reay (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this morning upon the departure of Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy for Spain and bade farewell to Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy on behalf of Her Majesty.

This morning The Princess Royal, President, the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, attended a Council Meeting, 35 Belgrave Square, London SW1.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 14: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother today visited Coventry, and honoured the Lord Mayor of Coventry (Councillor W. Hardy) with her presence at Luncheon at the Council House.

In the afternoon Her Majesty was present at a Service of Reconciliation in Coventry Cathedral.

The Lady Grimthorpe, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain Conolly Morris-Adams were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 14: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Prince of Wales.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 14: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, President, The Queen's Nursing Institute, this afternoon was present at the Annual Open Meeting which was held at Plaisterers' Hall, 1 London Wall, London, EC2.

Mrs Michael Harvey was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 14: The Duke of Kent, President of the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, this morning opened CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London EC1.

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the new Epsom and Ewell Community Hospital, Epsom, Surrey and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Surrey (Mr Richard Thornton).

Commander Roger Walker, RN was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this afternoon attended the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund's Christmas Fair at the Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, St Vincent Square, London SW1.

Mrs Colin Marsh was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 14: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy, attended by Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox, left Heathrow Airport, London this morning for Spain where, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the work of the British Council in Spain, Her Royal Highness will open the British Council School at Pozuelo and attend a performance by the Royal National Theatre at the Maria Guerrero Theatre in Madrid.

At the Airport, Her Royal Highness and Sir Angus Ogilvy were received by His Excellency Don Felipe de la Morena (Ambassador of Spain), Sir Donald Logan (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) and Mr William Oatey (Director of Safety and Security, Heathrow Airport Limited).

Birthdays today

Mr J.G. Ballard, novelist, 60; Mr Daniel Barenboim, pianist and conductor, 48; Sir Geoffrey Chandler, former director-general, NEDO, 68; Miss Petula Clark, singer, 56; Mr André Deutsch, publisher, 73; Professor Peter Dickinson, pianist and composer, 56; Mr Martin Hammond, headmaster of Tonbridge School, 46; Mr Gregor MacKenzie, former MP, 63; Mr D.D. Rae Smith, chartered accountant, 71; Sir Wallace Rowling, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 63; Major-General J.K. Shepheard, 82; Canon Eric Staples, former Chaplain to the Queen, 80; Mr Ralph Stubbs, racehorse trainer, 45; Sir Roger Young, former principal, George Watson's College, Edinburgh, 67.

Peter Phillips is 13 years old today.

Dinners

Anglo-Spanish Society
The Spanish Ambassador, President of the Anglo-Spanish Society, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal Over-Seas League. Sir Ronald Lindsay, vice-chairman, received the guests and Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox was the guest speaker.

National Liberal Club
Lord Banks presided at the annual dinner of the National Liberal Club held last night at the club. Sir David Steel, MP, and Mr David Owen-Jones, chairman of the general committee, were the principal speakers. The Bishop of Chichester, Lady Banks, Baroness Robson of Kiddington and Mrs Rachel Kelly were among those present.

London House for Overseas Graduates
Mr Stephen Carden, Chairman of the London House Trust, and Mr David Emms, Director of the London House for Overseas Graduates, received the guests at the annual arts faculty dinner held at London House last night for graduates at London House and William Goodenough House.

Institute of Actuaries
The President of the Institute of Actuaries, Mr Hugh Scurfield, was host last night at dinner held in Staple Inn for guests from the European Communities, and in politics, the City, industry and commerce, education and the professions. Sir Robin Butler, KCB, CVO, Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service, replied briefly to Mr Scurfield's welcome.

Musicians' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Musicians' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr J.B. Lockett; Senior Warden, Mr H. Willis; Junior Warden, Dr A.D. Percival.

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will visit the Royal College of Music at 5.00.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Blackie Foundation Trust, will attend the Blackie memorial lecture at the Post Graduate Centre of the National Heart and Lung Hospital, Dovehouse Street, at 6.15.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Grand Prior of the Order of St John, will perform the investiture of Knights and Dames at St James's Palace at 2.15.

The Duke of Kent, royal fellow, will attend the Clifford Paterson lecture at the Royal Society at 4.45.

The Duchess of Kent, as a trustee of the Jacqueline du Pré Memorial Fund, will attend a concert at the Festival Hall at 7.10.

Prince Michael of Kent, as a liveryman of the Leathersellers' Company, will attend the annual dinner at Leathersellers' Hall at 7.30.

Receptions

Monier-Williams Bicentenary
The partners of Monier-Williams held a reception last night at the Tallow Chandlers' Hall in celebration of the founding of the firm in 1790. A toast was proposed by His Hon Judge E.F. Monier-Williams. The senior partner, Mr Derek Kirby Johnson, responded.

University College London
Dr D.H. Roberts, Provost of University College London, and Mrs Roberts, were hosts to an Alumnus Day reception held yesterday at the college. Sir Robin Ibbs, chairman of the college council, presented UCL Gold Medals to Lord Prior, Mrs Ann Rylands and Professor G. R. Stewart on behalf of the anonymous donor. Among those present were:

Lady Ibbs, Lady Prior, Mr Jack Rylands, Mrs G.R. Stewart, Sir James and Lady Lighthill, Sir Henry and Lady Phillips, Lady Aird, Sir James Henry, Sir Arthur Shelling, His Honour Judge Griffiths, Sir Arthur Vick; vice-provost, Professor T.J. Biscoe; pro-provosts, Professor A P Mathias and Professor John White and Mrs White; public orator, Professor M W Swales; Major-General I H Baker, secretary of the college; Mr H M Priestley, treasurer of the college; the Mayor and Mayoress of Camden; and Professor E H Brown, alumnus director.

Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea
The Mayor and Mayoress of Kensington and Chelsea held a reception last night at the Town Hall, Kensington. Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the Diplomatic Corps were among the guests.

Service luncheon

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, was host at a luncheon held yesterday on board HMS Victory. The Earl of Arran, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, was the guest of honour.

OBITUARIES

MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE

Malcolm Muggeridge, journalist, broadcaster and author, died yesterday at the age of 87. He was born on March 24, 1903.

AS AN irreverent and provocative journalist and broadcaster, and most recently as a Christian apologist, Malcolm Muggeridge had an enormous influence in the English-speaking world, seeming to bear out the truth of Thomas Carlyle's dictum: "The writers of newspapers, pamphlets, books, these are the effective church of a modern country". He had begun in journalism as a foreign correspondent, and not all his own deeply held beliefs, even prejudices, about certain subjects could prevent him from being an objective and clear-sighted one. But for most of his life as a journalist he was, supremely, a proponent of argument and a creator of controversy. His incisive style and wide range of reference combined with an ability to express complex thoughts in a way which brought them into the realm of everyday concerns, gave his utterances wide currency. As he moved in his later years towards whole-hearted religious belief the label "St Mugg" which stuck to him reflected an affectionate view of his posture as "reformed rake" which might, in another, have been found ridiculous. As he it was he became, largely through television, something of a household guru whose commentaries on politics, religion and social affairs were at most influential, at the very least much enjoyed.

Malcolm Muggeride was born in Croydon. His father was a lawyer's clerk who became Labour MP for Romford. His mother came from a working-class Sheffield background. His father's crusading socialism was the strongest influence on him. Malcolm, who shared his father's Fabian enthusiasms, was educated at Selhurst Grammar School and later at Selwyn College, Cambridge, where as a state school boy and a socialist he experienced a sense of isolation which he never wholly lost. At Cambridge he first grew interested in religion through meeting Alec Vidler, then a fellow Selwyn undergraduate and later a well-known Anglican priest and theologian. Vidler became a lifelong friend and it was partly thanks to his influence that, on leaving Cambridge, Muggeridge accepted an offer from the Rev W. E. S. O. Holland to teach at the Union Christian College at Alwaye in South India. Here he gradually became disillusioned with organised religion and began to flirt with anarchism. He also produced his first journalism while at Alwaye.

Returning to England in 1927, Muggeridge taught for a short time at a state school in Birmingham. In the same year he married Kitty Dobbs, a niece of Beatrice Webb, and sailed for Egypt where he had accepted a teaching post at Cairo University. He started to submit articles to the *Manchester Guardian* and in 1930, thanks to the encouragement of Arthur Ransome, he took a job on the paper's editorial staff. In September 1932, shocked by Ramsay MacDonald's betrayal of the Labour party and convinced that the USSR offered the only alternative, Muggeridge became the *Guardian's* Moscow correspondent. His intention was to live the rest of his life there.

The nine months in the Soviet Union marked the turning point of Muggeridge's life. He saw at first hand the tyranny and oppression of Stalin's regime and the terrible effects of famine in the Ukraine. What made an indelible impression, however, was the blindness to these evils of Western visitors — liberals and fellow-travellers later described brilliantly in his novel *Winter in Moscow* — which disillusioned him for ever of the ideals that sustained his father and so many of his contemporaries.

Returning to England Muggeridge wrote a novel, *Picture Palace*, satirising the *Guardian*, which was suppressed after the paper threatened legal action. Leaving his wife and children in London, he now went to India and worked on *The Statesman* in Calcutta for a year, describing it later as "easily the most melancholy of my life". In 1935 he joined the *Evening Standard's* Londoner's Diary under Robert Bruce-Lockhart. Encouraged, however, by his great friend Hugh Kingsmill, he gave up daily journalism in 1936 and went to live at Whatlington in Sussex where he wrote his deeply pessimistic book *In a Valley of this Restless Mind* (1938). At the outbreak of the second world war Muggeridge joined the Intelligence Corps. He was later transferred to MI6 and spent most of the war as an agent in Lourenco Marques. In 1944 he was sent to liberated Paris where he befriended P. G. Wodehouse, recently released from his internment in Germany. Typically Muggeridge found himself out of tune with the prevailing political trend. In 1945, following the massive Labour victory at the polls, he became a leader writer on *The Daily Telegraph* and in 1946 went to Washington as the paper's correspondent. In 1950 he was appointed deputy editor.

In 1952, following the resignation of Kenneth Bird (the cartoonist Fougasse), Muggeridge was offered the editorship of *Punch*, the only outsider ever to be considered for the post. He quickly overcame any resentment on the part of the staff and remained for five years, transforming the staid old periodical into something much more lively and satirical, encouraging artists like André François and Ronald Searle and bringing in contributors of the calibre of Anthony Powell, Claud Cockburn and John Betjeman. Not all readers were pleased. The Archbishop of Canterbury wrote to complain and there was a major furore when an Illingworth cartoon was published showing Winston Churchill, then prime minister, as a senile old man. Muggeridge, however, could never sustain an interest in any job for long and in 1957 he resigned.

As a result of his appearances on such programmes as *Any Questions?* and *Panorama* he was already well known as a broadcaster and interviewer for the BBC. Although the corporation dropped him for a short time, following a press furore in 1957 about a critical article on the monarchy which he wrote for the *Saturday Evening Post*, he was subsequently re-employed and throughout the 1960s appeared regularly on television, making a number of memorable films, notably *Twilight of Empire* (1964) in which he revisited India and *Ladies and Gentlemen, It is My Pleasure* (1965), a hilarious account of a lecture tour of America. His most successful programme, the making of which had a profound influence on him, was *Something Beautiful for God*, a film about Mother Teresa of Calcutta which was later (1971) published as a book. During this period Muggeridge's way of life was gradually altering.

After many years of restless change, he had finally settled at Robertsbridge in Sussex, where he was to remain for the rest of his life. He became a vegetarian, gave up drinking and smoking and even watching television, telling everyone that he had had his "aerials removed". In 1966 he published *Tread Softly for You Tread on My Jokes*, a collection of his journalism which showed the range of his experience, the elegance and wit of his style. In 1972 the first volume of his autobiography *Chronicles of Wasted Time: The Green Stick* was published, followed by *The Infernal Grove* (1973). Muggeridge never completed his memoirs, though a volume of diaries *Like It Was* was published in 1981. With its lucid prose and brilliant descriptive writing, this book did more than any other finally to establish Muggeridge as a writer of genius who could not be dismissed as a mere hack journalist.

Though his critics accused Muggeridge of inconsistency and hypocrisy, certain themes remained constant in all his writing, in particular his own sense of "not belonging", of being "a stranger in a strange land". He was by nature anarchic and was repelled by all manifestations of power. Though he could on occasion be over-disparaging and sometimes gave needless offence, his general good humour and lack of malice made all his criticism highly enjoyable. His particular scorn was reserved for liberals and progressives whom he saw as the natural allies of totalitarianism. Like his friend George Orwell, Muggeridge had about him something of the aura of the prophet, though like Orwell's his political prophecies were doomed not always to be supported by historical events.

Muggeridge was never a calculating man. He acted on impulse, "drifting along" as he himself put it. When writing he seldom bothered with records and research material, trusting in his memory which was inevitably on occasions fallible. Until the onset of old age his natural mood was restless and dissatisfied. But his gradual conversion to Christianity was not, as some critics said, the reaction of an elderly voluptuary who had taken his fill of the world's pleasures. Religion had been a constant obsession which was reflected in nearly all his writing. *The Earnest Atheist*, a study of Samuel Butler, was a savage assault from a position of orthodoxy on a writer who was a very sacred cow amongst agnostics and progressives. The theme of *The Thirties* (1940) was the moral confusion that follows a loss of faith. What prevented for so long any positive religious development was Muggeridge's anarchic spirit, his scorn for organisations and hierarchies, which governed his attitude as much to the churches as to political parties. Only when he was nearly 80 did he "drift" into the Roman Catholic church, partly under the influence of Mother Teresa, though his admiration of Pope John Paul II and the church's opposition to abortion and euthanasia also played their part.

Those who knew only his acerbic and gloomy public persona were surprised to find him in private warm-hearted, generous and unfailingly cheerful. With the help of his wife, Kitty, whose loyalty and saintly spirit sustained him throughout his life, to the extent that it was never possible to think of them apart, he kept open house and never failed to give help and encouragement to friends, disciples, misfits and strangers.

Although in old age his writings were mainly concerned with religious themes, he never lost his interest in politics and remained an inveterate gossip with an Aubrey-like fascination with the lives of his contemporaries. He experienced intense pleasure in his daily life with Kitty, in being a grandfather, in listening to music and in walking in the Sussex countryside. Muggeridge spent the last few years of his life quietly, only very occasionally appearing on television or giving interviews. But he never lost his zest for publicity. The most important published production of those last years, *Conversion* (1988), seems to show that he did achieve religious certainty.

Kitty, who was received into the Catholic faith in 1982, survives him, with two sons and one daughter.

TOM CLANCY

Tom Clancy, Irish folk singer and actor, died on November 7 in Cork at the age of 67. He was born in Carrick-on-Suir, Co Tipperary, in 1923.

THE sons of the Clancy family became entertainers at least partly because the idea of being paid for doing something they enjoyed appealed to them; Thomas John Clancy tried his hand as a baker when he was 14 and at the age of 17 joined the RAF, as did his older brother Patrick. Tom flew missions over Germany and North Africa and after the war joined Shakespeariana Internationale, an Irish-based theatre company.

In the 1950s, Tom and Pat travelled to the USA, where they took up acting at the Playhouse in Cleveland, Ohio. Later, in New York, Tom played for a while in off-Broadway theatre. Then on Broadway he acted in support of Helen Hayes (in Eugene O'Neill's *Touch of the Poet*); Orson Welles (in *King Lear*) and Siobhan McKenna (in Shaw's *St Joan*). The two brothers rented the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York's Greenwich Village, where they gave folk concerts to raise the rent money. In 1956 Tom and Pat were joined by their younger brother Liam, who brought with him a fine North of Ireland singer, Tommy Makem. In the more innocent days before the present troubles, folk groups could draw upon both green and orange ballads without demur and the four recorded the tracks of a disc with rebel sentiments. Pat set up the Tradition label to issue and distribute the record.

The group decided to try performing for six months. The six months became 30 years. When the group was booked for the Ed Sullivan television show, a hitch in the programming led to the extension of their spot from three minutes to 18 minutes. Next day they woke up famous.

The brothers and Tommy toured internationally and played the Carnegie Hall, New York, and Royal Albert Hall, London. In 1965 they topped the bill at the first Cambridge Folk Festival, and, in 1985, Ken Woollard invited them

back to celebrate the 21st festival. It was a group reunion. Tommy Makem had left in 1969 and Liam in 1975. By that time they had made 50 albums, mainly for Columbia (CBS in Britain) and Vanguard. Tom and Pat teamed with Bobby Clancy, a younger brother, and a cousin, Robbie O'Connell, to form a group that toured in the 1980s. Tom Clancy turned to television and appeared in the *Incredible Hulk*, *Charlie's Angels*, and *Little House on the Prairie*.

Liam Clancy and Tommy Makem were the group's vocal mainstays. But Tom Clancy built on his acting strengths to add drama to the group's presentation of (mainly) Irish songs. Some were rebel songs, some Dublin music hall, some from the finest streams of Irish tradition.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.J. Berthoud and Miss C.H.J. Seys-Phillips
The engagement is announced between Charlton, son of Sir Martin and Lady Berthoud, of Port of Spain, Trinidad, and Clare, daughter of the late Mr Michael Seys-Phillips and of Mrs Joyce Seys-Phillips, of Mereworth, Kent.

Mr N.P. Bray and Miss K.N.M.A. Noujaim
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Bray, of Redditch, Worcestershire, and Kim, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Noujaim, of Chetwode, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M.P. Clancy and Miss P.A. Maerz
The engagement is announced between Michael Paul, son of the late William Clancy and of Patricia Clancy, of Cambuslang, Glasgow, and Patricia Ann, daughter of Robert J. Maerz and Eileen Power-Maerz, of West Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

Mr S.N. Denison and Miss V.M. Wright
The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of His Honour Judge Neil Denison, QC, of London, SW8, and of Mrs Philippa Napier, of Oxted, Surrey, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville Wright, of Vine Cottage, Sevenoaks, Kent.

Baron Strathloch and Comtesse de Frenay
The engagement is announced between the Rev Lawrence Durdin-Robertson, Baron Strathloch, of Clonegal Castle, Co Carlow, and Joan, Comtesse de Frenay, only daughter of Captain Gerald Odell Furlong, of Ardmore and Ballinaparka, Co Waterford.

Mr N.A.V. Flint and Miss A. Parry-Williams
The engagement is announced between Noel, son of the late Mr M.J. Flint and of Lady Rougier and stepson of the Hon Sir Richard Rougier, of Kensington, London, SW7, and Amanda, daughter of Dr H.W. Parry-Williams and the late Mrs Jennifer Parry-Williams, of Datchet, Berkshire.

Mr R.B. Kerr and Miss C.H. Aldred
The engagement is announced between Richard Buchanan, only son of the late Mr Jack Kerr and of Mrs J. Kerr, of Bedford, and Charlotte Helen, second daughter of Mr R.W. Aldred, of Cornwall, and Mrs Jeffrey Eker, of High Halden, Kent.

Mr S.M.P. Ling and Miss C.M.S. Wight
The engagement is announced between Simon Michael Pirie, elder son of Mr Michael H.W. Ling, of Bexhill-on-Sea, and the late Mrs Jill Ling, and Catriona Mary Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin A.F. Wight, of Edinburgh.

Mr S.J. Page and Miss L.J. Blackmore
The engagement is announced between Sebastian James, eldest son of Mr C.M. Page, of Casa Na SRa Do Cabo, Azoia, Sintra, Portugal, and only son of the Duchess of Hamilton, of Arcadia, Magnetic Island, Queensland, Australia, and Laura Jane, eldest daughtr of Mr R.G. Blackmore, of Barnes, London, and beloved and only daughter of Mrs J.M. Blackmore, of Woodbine Cottage, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr J.A.L. Macdonald and Miss A.C. Wright
The engagement is announced between John Alexander Lindsay, elder son of Major General and Mrs John M.L. Macdonald, of Wallabadah, New South Wales, Australia, and formerly of Ballintuim, Perthshire, and Alice Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Wright, of Uppingham, Rutland. The marriage will take place in Australia.

Mr P.A.E. Opperman and Miss C.J. Robson
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr Michael Opperman, of Tenbury, Worcestershire, and of Mrs Derek Edwards, of Selborne, Hampshire, and Charlotte, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs John Robson, of Ditchling, Sussex.

Mr S.J. Skidmore and Miss D.L. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr C. Skidmore and Mrs B. Ross, of Chislehurst, and Derryn, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.G. Wilson, of Beckenham, Kent.

Marriage

Mr R.A.D. Acland and Miss A.J. Osborne
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 10, at St Mary the Virgin, Filton, Barnstaple, between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Martin Acland, of Standon Green End, Ware, and Alison, daughter of Dr and Mrs Bruce Osborne, of Westacott, Barnstaple. The Rev John Spear officiated.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Pitt the Elder, 1st Earl of Chatham, prime minister 1756-61, 1766-68, London, 1708; Sir William Herschel, astronomer, Hanover, 1738; Johann Lavater, poet, Zurich, 1741; August Krogh, physiologist, Nobel laureate 1920, Grenaa, Denmark, 1874;

DEATHS: Johannes Kepler, astronomer, Regensburg, Germany, 1630; Christoph Gluck, composer, Vienna, 1787; George Romney, portrait painter, Kendal, Cumbria, 1802; Tz'u Hsi, empress dowager of China, Peking, 1908; Lionel Barrymore, actor, Van Nuys, California, 1954.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, presided at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of Mr Tadeusz Syryjczyk, Polish Minister for Industry.

GB-USSR Association
Viscount Whitelaw, CH, President of the Great Britain-USSR Association, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Carlton Club in honour of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton. Sir Curtis Keeble, Sir Ronald McIntosh, Mr Peter Bonfield, Mr Walter Hogbin and Mr Roderic Lyne were the other guests.

Lunchtime Comment Club
Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Dixon, Commandant of the Royal Marines School of Music, Deal, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Lunchtime Comment Club held yesterday at the New Connaught Rooms. Mr Adrian Mezzetti, chairman, presided.

Memorial services

Sir John Richmond
The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir Donald Logan and the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service by Sir Philip Adams at a memorial requiem Mass for Sir John Richmond celebrated by Father Vincent Hawe, SJ, yesterday at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street.

Mrs Emma Shackle, daughter, read the lesson and Mrs Richard Morphet, daughter, led the bidding prayers. Mr Albert Hourani gave an address. The Crown Prince of Jordan was represented by Miss Caroline Totterdill. Among others present were:

Lady Richmond (widow), Dr Sam Richmond (son), Miss Sophie Richmond (daughter), Mr Richard Morphet (son-in-law), Miss Mary Shackle, Mr Guy Shackle, Miss Zoe Shackle, Miss Selina Morphet and Jack and Maeve Richmond-Breslin (grandchildren), Mr S Brennan, Lady Plowden, Miss Anna Plowden, Mr Brian Clarke, Mrs John Brewis, Miss Monica Brewis.

The Ambassador of Sudan, Mr Omar M Bitess (representing the Embassy of Jordan), Lady Trevelyan, Lord Mayhew, Sir John and Lady Graham, Lady Harlow, Lady (Richard) Beaumont, Lady Murphy, Lady Arthur, Lady Arthur, Lady (John) Moberly, Sir Donald Hawley, Sir Martin Le Quesne, Lady Dulke, Lady Pilcher, Sir Harold Beeley (chairman, World of Islam Festival Trust) with Mr Alastair Duncan and Mr David Slaughter.

Mr Michael Wall (editor, *Middle East International*), Miss Mary Joyce (Arab British Centre), Dr Zaki Badawi (Imams and Mosques Council, UK), Major and Mrs Roy Gerrard (Durham University), Dr M Akrd (Exeter University), Mr David Watkins (Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding), Mr E C Hodgkin, Mr Edward Mortimer, Mrs Albert Hourani, Mr Cecil Hourani, Mr Christopher Walker, Mr Adam Roberts, Mr and Mrs A R Walmsley, Mr Douglas Collard, Mr D J McCarthy, Mr St John Armitage, Miss N Hashimi, Miss J Bernard, Mr A Bell, Mrs Christina Gascoigne and Miss Elizabeth Williams.

Mrs Menna Prestwich
A memorial service for Mrs Menna Prestwich, emeritus fellow, St Hilda's College, was held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev W.S.D. Sykes officiated. Mrs Mary Bennett and Professor Michael Prestwich, son, read the lessons. Miss Catherine Pestell gave an address.

Reith lecture

Dr Sacks picks holes in consumer culture

By Ruth Gledhill, Religious Affairs Reporter

OUR religious beliefs have been profoundly eroded, just as unrestricted pursuit of economic growth has devastated our physical environment, Dr Jonathan Sacks, the chief rabbi-elect, said last night.

Delivering his first Reith lecture on BBC Radio 4, Dr Sacks said: "There is, if you like, a God-shaped hole in our ozone layer."

People have not stopped identifying themselves as religious individuals and thinking in religious ways. They still see suffering and poverty as "things we ought somehow to relieve."

He said: "The human being as consumer neither is, nor can be, all we are and a social system built on that premise will fail. The east has engaged in self-examination and has turned for inspiration to the west. But the west has yet to return the compliment and ask whether its own social fabric is in a state of good repair.

"I believe it is not. And the problem is not with our economic and political systems, but in a certain emptiness at the head of our common life. Something has been lost in our consumer culture: that sense of meaning beyond ourselves that was expressed in our great religions traditions. It is not something whose eclipse we can contemplate with equanimity. Religious faith is central to a humane social order. To paraphrase a rabbinic saying: if we have only a secular society, even a secular society we will not have.

"We are less sure than we were that the future will be better than the past, that economic growth is open-ended or that utopia can be brought by any sort of revolution. So long as confidence in human progress remained high, religious beliefs seem a dispensable commodity. We cannot edit God out of the language and leave our social world unchanged."

In last night's lecture, which will be repeated on Monday on Radio 3, Dr Sacks said that it was in the 1960s, the "decade of doing your own thing", that morality began to seem simply a matter of personal choice. Since then, we have become increasingly aware of the problems of our social ecology.

The series of Reith lectures, entitled "The Persistence of Faith: Religion and Ethics in a Secular Society", will continue until December 19.

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THE TIMES

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE?

The contest for the Conservative leadership should not have been necessary. It arose as a result of Giulio Andreotti's mismanagement of the Rome summit in October and the resulting shambles over economic union. Hardly since Pope Clement VII refused to allow Henry VIII to divorce Catherine of Aragon has British politics been so shaken by events in Rome. Although some other European leaders privately shared her frustration, Margaret Thatcher's intemperate reaction in the House of Commons to her treatment in Rome came when she was most vulnerable to critics at home – and just far enough ahead of the next election to make a challenge plausible.

Now that there is to be a fight, the Conservative party should make the best of it. Compared with other constitutional systems, the mantle of leadership in British politics rests securely on the shoulders of its wearers. No lasting harm need be done by putting that leadership to an occasional test in the electoral college of the party system.

In former times, Conservative leaders suffered from hostile conspiracy in the private corridors and clubrooms of Westminster. Such disagreement as might exist between them and their colleagues was shared only between the party's great and good. The reforms that brought Edward Heath to power in 1965 – establishing Tory MPs as the electoral college for the party leadership – forced such disagreement into the open.

But parties usually eject their leaders only in opposition, as Mrs Thatcher ousted Mr Heath in 1975. Never in modern times has a prime minister faced so direct a challenge by a leading opponent within the same party as Mrs Thatcher does today. The parliamentary Conservative party is to stage a full-blown primary contest for the leadership in what is clearly the run-up to the next election. The electorate for this primary may be a closed one, but the campaign will be painfully open.

Mr Heseltine has declared, as needs he must, that the issue between himself and Mrs Thatcher is one of style. Such is the cohesive character of modern Conservatism that for him to declare a deep ideological fissure within three years of fighting an election alongside her would look odd. Like Sir Geoffrey Howe and various other Thatcher refuseniks, Mr Heseltine has made something of Mrs Thatcher's handling of Europe. But wary of getting lost in murky Euro-metaphor and jargon, he must emphasise that Mrs Thatcher's alleged shortcomings are those of vision and temperament rather than substance.

Yesterday Mr Heseltine also brought up the bugbear of the poll tax. His promise to seek its swift revision must have put joy into the hearts of dozens of hard-pressed Tory backbenchers. As the Bradford by-election showed, the tax has not lost its odium at the hustings, even if opinion surveys indicate that it may be overtaken by interest rates in the concerns of the wider electorate. Mr Heseltine has always sought sanity in local government finance, so in this he has a strong suit to play.

Mrs Thatcher will meet the challenge with the vigour and strength that comes from incumbency. She is sound in body and mind. She has a programme which, though looking a little tired and unradical, is backed by her unshakeable belief in economic non-intervention, sound money and personal incentive. She will argue that she received a mandate in 1979, has had it twice renewed, and wishes to see it through. Those of her followers who do not like her style can choose to ignore it and concentrate on the substance of her policies – they have known about her style long enough. On the substance, they stood and fought three elections, and won them. Whether this argument washes will determine the outcome of the contest. Politics is about style as much as substance, for style attracts electors and thereby legitimises political power.

The Conservative party has been at its most potent when led by leaders capable of evincing a strong personal response from the public – Disraeli, Baldwin, Churchill and, indeed, Mrs Thatcher – none of whom was quite at home with the arts of the clubroom. But even the party's strongest leaders must eventually give way to a successor. Mrs Thatcher has shown scant mercy to both her colleagues and her parliamentary supporters of late. Now it is on their mercy that she must throw herself. In the next few days, *The Times* will examine to what extent that mercy is merited.

HIGH NOON IN BRUSSELS

The meeting tomorrow in Brussels between the European Community and the American officials in charge of the Gatt's Uruguay round of negotiations to liberalise world trade must not be allowed to fail. For after four years of talks, only three weeks now remain in which to rescue the round from collapse.

Should that happen, the costs in terms of the lost opportunity to free trade in agriculture, services and 13 other areas would be enormous. The chance to develop more effective rules for settling trade disputes would be lost. The postwar trading system would be severely weakened. Trade wars would be inevitable, eliminating many of the past gains achieved under the Gatt. Competitive subsidies and other protectionist barriers would proliferate, setting back for years the cause of global economic integration.

There would be political costs too. The EC's international standing would suffer, because if the round fails, the Community will be squarely blamed. Difficulties persist in many of the sectors covered by the talks, notably in services. But the main stumbling-block is agriculture, where the real obstacle to agreement is the EC's spineless obeisance to its farming lobbies.

The EC had four years in which to respond to demands by the US and the 14-nation Cairns Group of agricultural exporters to phase out trade-distorting farm subsidies. Having dithered until last week, it produced an offer which fell short even of its own commitments to "progressive and substantial reductions". Where the EC's trade partners seek deep cuts, Brussels offers only a 15 per cent drop below existing levels. Underlying this is the refusal of the EC to admit that the common agricultural policy has had its day, and that the only real question is how quickly it can be phased out.

The EC offer would continue to protect European farmers against imports (sheltering beef producers, for example, behind an 88 per cent tariff wall). It would raise some tariffs and maintain EC export subsidies, the most trade-distorting form of payments. Not surprisingly, when this lame horse was entered into the running last weekend, it fell at the first fence.

At the White House on Tuesday President Bush elicited a pledge from Jacques Delors and the current president of the European Council, Giulio Andreotti, to make every effort to salvage the talks. That promise will be put to the test tomorrow, when the US agriculture secretary, Clayton Yeutter, and Carla Hills, the US trade representative, arrive in Brussels.

If a compromise is to be cobbled from this travesty of a negotiation, the European Community has to meet the others at least halfway. Ray MacSharry, the EC agriculture commissioner, now says that the US and the EC are in reality close to agreement, the main difference being their methods of calculation. He failed to say why, if so, the EC refuses to save the talks by adopting the US proposals as a basis for negotiations.

Agriculture, which accounts for 5 per cent of EC exports and less than a tenth of its workforce, cannot dictate EC policy in this critical negotiation. Britain has argued steadily for a realistic offer. But France and Germany, riveted by the EC's designs for European integration, have behaved with as much parochialism as they are apt to accuse Mrs Thatcher of exhibiting. In London this week Mr Yeutter transposed John Donne's famous words about no man being an island. Today, he said, each nation is "a part of the economic main, a piece of the Continent of man". At this eleventh hour, the EC must set aside its preoccupations with its own continent and meet the challenge those words throw out.

REVOLUTION WITHOUT ROOTS

Mrs Thatcher fights on, but how strong is Thatcherism? The British Social Attitudes survey, published today, suggests that it still only goes skin deep. Individualism, entrepreneurship and a belief in traditional morality, the main articles of the Thatcherite creed, have simply failed to establish themselves. The revolution she sought has not taken root. Attitudes are unchanged, British life flows on, and the culture remains curiously unaffected.

Take self-employment, often cited as a measure of the entrepreneurial spirit. Self-employment increased sharply in the 1980s, from about 8 per cent of the workforce to more than 13 per cent now, an apparent franking of Thatcherite claims. But the survey's analysis suggests that the growth of self-employment is wholly due to economic necessity. People would still prefer good, old-fashioned jobs.

Or take another touchstone of Thatcherism, the desire to reduce, while reforming, the welfare state. The BSA study shows clear majority support – including, for the first time, among Conservative voters – for raising taxes to fund increased public expenditure. More money for the health service is seen as the overwhelming priority. Very few want to see a further wielding of the Chancellor's knife.

This raises a question mark over some of the central rhetoric (if not the practice, since spending on the health service has actually increased since 1979 by 50 per cent) of the Thatcher years. It explains why, good politicians all, departmental ministers boast like mad about how much more the state is spending, while the Treasury boasts how tough the limits are. Labour might do well to take note. Fearful of being labelled spendthrift, Labour has shied away from espousing more public spending. Yet that is what Labour governments are traditionally supposed to be about. In this instance at least, Mr Kinnock may be too cautious for his own good.

The development of public opinion on family matters is less clear-cut. The traditional nuclear family is no longer the statistical norm but nostalgia for it persists. Having two children is regarded as optimal. They should be reared by a couple living together, and preferably married, with the mother staying home to look after them. Yet only a small, mainly elderly minority still holds to the view held by most people in 1980 that husbands should work and women should look after the home, children or no children.

The BSA study is authoritative and now runs as an impressive time series over seven years. Yet it is still based to a large extent on responses to "feel-good" questions, those to which positive answers can be given without fear of personal and especially economic consequences. Notoriously, people want better services much more than they want to pay higher taxes to fund them.

Moreover, even in a democratic age, mass opinion is not the sole – or even the chief – indicator of where society stands. Were a society to seek to govern itself by adapting its policy to every whim of public opinion, it would rapidly be faced with contradictions, even breakdown.

Thatcherism as a philosophy has not won the sentimental allegiance of the masses (though, so far, they have been happy enough to back it in the polling booths). It has, however, undeniably shifted élite opinion. Most thinking people today do not believe the same political creed that most thinking people believed a decade ago. That is a trend of Thatcherism which goes deeper and may survive longer than any in today's survey.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tory leadership in open dispute

From Mr Sydney Shenton

Sir, Europe is a principal issue in the Conservative party's difficulties. Looming behind everything, however, are severe domestic problems: the total disappearance of the economic miracle, deterioration in almost every aspect of public services and associated investment, greater social differences than at any time since Victorian days.

Opinion polls confirm that about four out of every five of the electorate desire a change of prime minister. Whatever the outcome of the leadership elections, this is a situation the Conservative party cannot possibly ignore. What Sir Geoffrey Howe has reminded us all about, however, in vivid words, is the extra dimension to the European venture.

Conspicuous by its absence from Mrs Thatcher's whole approach has been the vision of unity, the working together of all the nations and communities of the EC for mutual benefit, the richer helping the poorer, the realisation of secure peace for the Continent for future generations, an example of stability and co-operation for the whole world.

It is regrettable that these aims of unity and social cohesion vouchsafed by the prime minister when she took office have fallen by the wayside. Her failure of transfer and exposition of these ideals to the new Europe look like being of major significance in her immediate and future standing.

Sincerely,
SYDNEY SHENTON,
95 The Crescent,
Davenport,
Stockport, Cheshire.
November 14.

From Mr Gerhard Spanier

Sir, Tory MPs and the media seem to be concerned only with the effects of the leadership crisis on the fortunes of the Conservative party in general and, in the case of MPs, especially on the outcome of the next general election.

The fact that their decision also determines the premiership and the international representation of this country seems to be of no concern to them.

Yours faithfully,
G. SPANIER,
549 Middle Road, Ravenhill,
Swansea, West Glamorgan.
November 11.

From Mr Lewis Stretch

Sir, MPs are representatives, *not* delegates, and so are entitled to vote in accordance with their judgment and conscience. Yet the corollary is that they must stand up and be counted, so that those they represent can judge whether they are fit to do so.

Ought not the arrangements for electing party leaders to be open to similar scrutiny? The lack of such accountability in the present Conservative party system denies many who have voted them into office the information needed for reconsidering their verdict. Yet such a facility is vital when major issues transcend and may split party allegiances.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS STRETCH,
1 Manor Close,
Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire.
November 12.

From Mr R. G. Ventress

Sir, When choosing a leader, the Conservative party ensures that he or she obtains an overall majority in any third ballot by transferring second-choice votes to the two remaining candidates.

Would some helpful member of the party please explain why I, as an ordinary voter, have to use a first-past-the-post system which does not ensure that the winner has an "overall" majority?

Yours faithfully,
R. G. VENTRESS,
6 Finchans Close,
Linton, Cambridgeshire.
November 14.

From Mr J. C. L. Keswick

Sir, From my observation the prime minister is not anti-Europe, but she does understand British self-interest.

The strength of self-interest is not always understood and is often attacked by self-seekers. No one could accuse the prime minister of being a self-seeker. Perhaps the media could change their attack to the self-seekers.

Yours faithfully,
CHIPS KESWICK (Chairman),
Hambros Bank Limited,
41 Tower Hill, EC3.
November 14.

From Sir Charles Tidbury

Sir, This country needs Mrs Thatcher's leadership and determination. Look where Britain has come in 11 years. Of course there have been some mistakes. No one could avoid that when so much has been done.

Don't let us talk of abandoning our leader and pilot just when we need her most, when both she and we are entering some very rough water. She deserves and needs support.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES TIDBURY,
20 Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, SW1.
November 13.

From Mr W. E. Gofton-Watson

Sir, What guarantee do we have that, if the prime minister is given out, she will walk?

Yours faithfully,
W. E. GOFTON-WATSON,
6 Belmont,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
November 13.

Cant and clarity on global gases

From Sir Ian Lloyd, MP for Havant (Conservative)

Sir, Nigel Hawkes ("Is this really a scientist speaking?", November 8) accuses the prime minister of accepting "cant on global warming" and describes the issue as an "inverted pyramid of implications resting on a handful of facts". Judging merely by the evidence presented at the Council of Europe conference in Ottawa in June and at the British Association meeting in Swansea in August, it is some handful!

As chairman of the board of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, charged with providing parliament with objective advice on such issues, I would like to comment on the way in which policy-makers have to deal with such scientific issues and the uncertainties involved.

Some things are clear. There is a greenhouse effect and a sizeable one – otherwise this planet would not be habitable. We also know without dispute which gases cause it and that they are increasing through man's activities. Since we know that greenhouse gases cause more of the Sun's radiation to be retained by the Earth and its atmosphere, the conclusion that the average temperature of the world will rise as greenhouse gases increase is not just "plausible" but highly probable.

Beyond this, there is considerable uncertainty – how much will the temperature rise and how fast, the effects on sea level, the absorptive capacity of the deep ocean, local climate, etc. The models can only be viewed as a tool, not a certain predictor. Policy-makers are thus left to decide what actions (if any) to take in the face of such uncertainty.

Political responses to the threat of global warming have fallen into two broad camps – those who call for more scientific understanding before considering action, and those who call for action on the basis of evidence so far gathered. Both are rational responses. However, one important facet of the greenhouse effect is the considerable delay between cause and effect.

Thus the full effects of doubling carbon dioxide concentrations by the year 2030 would not be felt on sea levels for centuries. Equally, similar delays would be encountered between controls on greenhouse gases and realising any benefits therefrom. Additionally, some changes appear likely to be irreversible – e.g., loss of tropical forests leads to a hotter and drier local climate, making recovery difficult.

From the policy-makers' viewpoint, therefore, the risk of waiting five to 15 years for better science and unambiguous evidence of the scale of global warming is that we may commit future generations to drastic actions to undo the accumulated warming put in the pipeline. Equally, the remaining uncertainties are such as to caution against draconian and costly immediate measures which may prove to be unnecessary.

There has thus been widespread support (including by parliamentary select committees) for measures which are justified in their own right but will also help to curtail global warming (e.g., slowing deforestation and population growth, increasing energy efficiency).

The prime minister's advocacy of the latter measures and the establishment of an international mechanism for additional controls if needed later is thus an entirely rational precautionary response. Your science editor does no service to objective debate by suggesting otherwise.

Yours sincerely,
IAN LLOYD (Chairman),
Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology,
2 Little Smith Street, SW1.

From Professor Emeritus R. P. Pearce

Sir, Your science editor criticises the prime minister for accepting the considered view of the majority of atmospheric scientists concerning global warming. His grounds are that, in the first place, observations do not show conclusive evidence for it; and secondly that atmospheric models, the main tools used in climatic prediction, are not fully proven. (Incidentally, Mr Hawkes's statement that they predict a much higher rate of warming than has so far been observed is misleading – a more recent model, taken into account by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climatic Change, includes the deep ocean and produces results in close agreement with the observed *net* warming since the industrial revolution).

What does he suggest the prime minister should have done? Ignore the whole thing until the observational evidence is indisputable on models completely reliable, despite the grave risk that if the IPCC is right by then it would be too late to stave off disasters on a global scale? She will undoubtedly have taken note of the uncertainties in the scientific case, highlighted in the panel's report, in coming to her decision, essentially a political one, to take a lead over international action.

In simply stressing the scientific uncertainties, your science editor nowhere faces up to this fundamental political issue. His article surely cannot therefore be taken seriously as a criticism of the prime minister.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT P. PEARCE,
27 Copped Hall Way,
Camberley, Surrey.

BSB/Sky merger

From the Chairman of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission

Sir, Michael Grade (November 9) wrote about the long-term problems arising from the satellite TV merger. He wrote of an urgent need for a common regulatory regime.

There is another need: for viewers to have access, within the terms of the Broadcasting Act, to a statutory complaints body. Viewers of all programmes broadcast by the ITC's licensees, which would have included the old BSB, will be able to complain to us of unjust or unfair treatment or of unwarranted infringement of privacy. This also applies to viewers of BBC programmes.

Viewers will not be able to do so, as the law at present stands, when they have grounds for complaint about programmes for the new British Sky Broadcasting. This seems unfair to the public and to the other broadcasters.

Yours truly,
SHIRLEY ANGLESEY, Chairman,
Broadcasting Complaints Commission,
Grosvenor House,
Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.
November 10.

From the Chief Executive of Channel 4 Television

Sir, I hope that the chairman of News International will not accuse me of being emotional if I quietly draw attention to two important points in his well-honed letter on the BSB/Sky merger (November 12).

First, we should not be seduced by his vision of the theoretical free market in satellite television, promising future expansion of choice on the Astra satellite. The recent merger itself demonstrates that there is not room for two major profitable satellite services in Britain. If there were, then why the shotgun marriage?

Second, if, as Mr Knight declares, Sky will from January 1 abide by the ITC's regulatory framework, then surely he must accept that the 20 per cent restriction on cross-media ownership forms an integral and necessary component, creating a level playing field for all players. News International may only "own" 35 per cent of the press, but that in itself unfairly penalises its television competitors who are legally prohibited from such linkages.

Yours faithfully
MICHAEL GRADE,
Chief Executive,
Channel 4 Television,
60 Charlotte Street, W1.

Bridleway evidence

From Mr George Laurence

Sir, Caroline Clayden (October 31) raises the problem of the unfriendly cross-examination. An inquiry is typically held under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 where, following the making by the council of an order modifying the definitive map to show a new footpath, bridleway or byway open to all traffic, the landowner objects.

The council can then, and usually does, use a lawyer at the inquiry to defend the making of the order. That lawyer is able, as is the inspector, to ensure that nervous witnesses giving evidence of 20 (not 25, *pace* Mrs Clayden) years' use on horseback are not taken unfair advantage of by the objector's counsel.

It is, however, inevitable that a user's evidence will be rigorously tested where, for example, the objecting landowner believes that the path has rarely been ridden during the requisite period, or at all.

If the result of the cross-examination is to confuse the witness, the inspector will have to decide whether that was because the evidence was unreliable in the first place. People wishing to avoid the risk of being crossly cross-examined are of course perfectly free to submit an affidavit or statement instead.

However, it is idle for Mrs Clayden to suggest that their evidence should then carry the same weight. The same considerations apply, of course, to *objectors*.

Yours truly,
GEORGE LAURENCE,
9 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
November 6.

Philip Larkin's will

From Mr John Hart

Sir, The example of Virgil, cited in Professor Currie's letter (November 5) on the right of an author's executors to destroy his early work, is only doubtfully relevant. Augustus, through the medium of patronage, had paid very heavily in advance for the *Aeneid*, and Virgil had no moral right to will the destruction of the work he had been commissioned to write.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HART,
Thirlstane House,
Malvern, Worcestershire.

From Dr G. M. Leuty

Sir, Those who want their unpublished work to be destroyed should do it themselves. This might save their executors some anguish, and conserve precious space in your correspondence columns.

Yours prescriptively,
GEORGE LEUTY,
13 Knighton Road,
Woodthorpe, Nottingham.

Cycling in Cambridge

From Councillor R. H. Leggatt

Sir, The cycling ban in central Cambridge has been proposed by the Conservative-controlled county council and not, as stated by your correspondent, John Tyson (November 2), by the city council, which is Labour-controlled.

The city council is firmly opposed to the cycling restrictions. It is committed to improved cycle access in the city, and has built up one of the country's most comprehensive cycleway networks over 25 years. We are working with all sections of the local community to defeat the proposed bike ban, and other environmentally damaging Tory plans, such as new roads and car parks in our fine public open spaces.

Yours etc.,
RICK LEGGATT (Chairman,
Environment Committee),
Cambridge City Council,
33 City Road,
Cambridge.
November 2.

RSC sponsorship

From Mr Trevor Nunn

Sir, Your editorial of October 31 misrepresented the financial facts contributing to the Royal Shakespeare Company's current crisis, stating that under my leadership the company was "notoriously averse to private sponsorship".

The fact is that the RSC was the first into the field of sponsorship (appointing a head of fundraising and sponsorship in 1980) and that it invariably topped the league table of theatre companies securing private patronage.

The total during my administration of the RSC amounted to £1,398,853. Since my departure, and mainly through the extraordinary generosity of Royal Insurance, the company has secured more than another £2 million in sponsorship and continues to achieve higher levels of private patronage than any other group in its field.

As well as concentrating on fundraising, I urged the company towards a policy of greater self-help. This led directly to the presentation of *Les Misérables* which, since its opening at the Barbican five years ago, has contributed a further £1 million a year to the RSC's bank balance.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR NUNN (Director),
Homevale Ltd.,
Gloucester Mansions,
Cambridge Circus, WC2.
November 8.

Desserts and diet

From Mr H. G. Button

Sir, How can Mrs Eileen Blaiklock (November 6) describe fresh fruit and sorbets as "a pudding"? The very word suggests something weighty, such as Ginger Sponge and Spotted Dog. These are puddings.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road, Cambridge.

Morality of divorce

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichto

Sir, You are right (leading article, November 2) to support the Law Commission's suggested reforms to the divorce law. Your write that "they indicate the rational and realistic direction in which the law should move". I would submit that the proposals are justified on moral and religious grounds as well.

The breakdown of marriage is tragic not only after separation but within the marital bond. It leads to distrust, frustration and bitterness which spills off in relationships which go beyond husband and wife. No one suffers more than the children whose future is blighted by the patterns of relationships which have been their model during the formative years of personality development.

In this situation any proposals which call for a cooling-off period of one year rather than the attempt to fix blame on one of the partners for the breakdown must be applauded. Marriages should not be entered into lightly, not because it is difficult to achieve a divorce but because the pain of loveless marriages can lead to the emotional and moral destruction of human lives.

A rabbinic sage once said that where love exists, "a man and his wife can sleep on the broadside of a sword; where there is no love, the world is not large enough for them". Attempts should be made to educate individuals in maintaining the love which motivated the marriage, but the moral and legal response to the failure of marriage must not be punishment but the most painless extrication from a wretched situation for the couple and their children.

Faithfully yours,
SIDNEY BRICHTO,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1.
November 2.

Executive role

From Mrs Patricia Napier

Sir, Would the male equivalent of a "Young mother to run a charter airline" (headline, November 8) ever be referred to as "a young *father*"?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA NAPIER,
Baynards Manor,
Rudgwick, West Sussex.
November 8.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – (071) 782 5046.

Finalists line up

THE FINALISTS for the 1990 UK Technology Press Awards, sponsored by *The Times* and Hewlett-Packard, are named today.

Nearly 400 entries were received for the ten categories. The winners will be announced at a ceremony at Claridges, London, on December 13. The finalists are:

News journalist: Tony Collins, *Computer Weekly*; Gren Manuel, freelance; Barry Fox, freelance.

Features journalist: Ian Meikle-john, freelance; Paul Bray, *Which Computer?*; Tony Collins, *Computer Weekly*.

Best newcomer award: Drew Cullen, *Personal Computer Magazine*; Rick Nye, *Connexion*; Nick Beard, freelance.

Technology columnist: David Tebbutt, freelance; Luke Collins, *Electronics Times*; Nick Beard, freelance.

Television or radio technology programme: *Science Now*, BBC Radio 4, programmes produced by Peter Crossdale and Julia Durbin; *Electric Avenue*, BBC TV, programmes entitled *Computerising the President*, *Home Bleep Home* and *The Experts Expert*, produced by Paul Simons; *Troubleshooter*, BBC TV, on Apricot computers, produced by Richard Reisz.

Technology photographer: Bruce Mackie; Chris Bell; Robert Clifford.

Technology journal: *Personal Computer Magazine*, edited by John Barnes, published by VNU; *Mac User*, edited by Alison Hjul, published by Dennis Publishing; *Datacom*, edited by Ian Scales, published by EMAP.

Best designed technology journal: *Datacom*, published by EMAP; *Mac User*, published by Dennis Publishing; *Personal Computer Magazine*, published by VNU.

Best treatment of a technical subject: Barry Fox, freelance; Simon Parry, *New Electronics*; Paul Freeman, *Electronics Today International*.

Press personality of the year: Andrew Gotthard, freelance; John Lettice, *Microscope*; Chris Hipwell, *Computer Weekly*.

Spotlights put food bugs in the firing line

Researchers are using genes to hunt down listeria and are developing "magic bullets" to identify the bacteria in infected food, Nina Morgan writes

Dr Gordon Stewart is shedding light on listeria, the bacteria that are found in some foods, and cause infection and sometimes death. With colleagues at Nottingham university's department of applied biochemistry and food science, he is exploring the use of the naturally occurring light-emitting properties, or bioluminescence, of marine bacteria in assessing methods of killing listeria.

Bioluminescence is common in the oceans and is responsible for the fluorescence seen as the surf breaks against the shore at night. The bioluminescence of marine bacteria originates in a single set of genes known as lux. By using genetic engineering techniques to introduce the lux genes into listeria on a plasmid – a self-replicating piece of the genetic material DNA – Dr Stewart's group has made these bacteria shine.

Expressing the lux genes requires energy. Only healthy listeria, therefore, will shine brightly. Dead ones do not glow at all.

The genetically engineered bioluminescent listeria bacteria are proving to be useful experimental tools in tests to determine the effectiveness of biocides or food-processing techniques aimed at eliminating them. The more effective the treatment, the less brightly the bacteria shine.

Bioluminescent listeria is only the first step. Dr Stewart hopes to introduce the lux genes into a listeria phage, a virus that attacks only listeria bacteria. He aims to use the phage as a "magic bullet" that finds its target and delivers the lux genes to the listeria.

The phage will not glow, although it carries the genes, because it has no intracellular biochemistry of its own, but when it infects live listeria bacteria, it will pass on the genes and cause them to glow. The phage infection could thus provide a quick and easy method to test for the presence of listeria in food.

Listeria turns up in many foods. Some soft cheeses from France were affected recently. Other sources are prepared chilled meals and prepared chilled salads, such as coleslaw, in which bacteria may grow despite high acidity. If listeria is present on the vegetables, the dressing will encourage the bacteria to multiply.

Lysteriolysin, the toxin produced by the listeria bacteria, acts by damaging macrophages, cells involved in the immune system. People whose immune systems are weakened are more prone to infection. The most susceptible include old people and pregnant women, whose babies are at risk from miscarriage or still birth.

Rigorous attention to hygiene during food preparation greatly reduces the risk of all types of bacterial contamination, and improved refrigeration can help to limit outbreaks of bacteria such as salmonella and *clostridium botulinum*, which causes botulism.

Chilling does not help to control listeria because the bacteria still grow at refrigeration temperatures. The sources of listeria infections are often difficult to trace because, unlike salmonella food poisoning, mass outbreaks of listeria poisoning are rare. The only effective weapon against any form of bacterial food poisoning is to ensure that the poisonous bacteria do not get in the food in the first place.

The food industry tests extensively for bacteria, but uses traditional methods. These involve placing samples of foods in dishes containing a nutrient medium and waiting for enough bacteria to grow until the colony is big enough to be seen. The process can take four or more. Dr Stewart's "magic bullets" research could result in a fast detection method for examining food and avoid future

STEVE ETHERINGTON

Tracking down listeria: Dr Gordon Stewart at Nottingham university

Waste plan for old oil wells

Poisons may be buried five miles deep, 200 miles out at sea

A FORMER electronics engineer wants to dispose of toxic waste by pumping it into empty North Sea oil wells. He is negotiating with oil companies and the government to put his plan into action after the first well runs dry.

Tony Phillips produced his proposals because he was unhappy with disposal methods for the two million tons of hazardous waste shed annually by British industry. Dumping on land is unsafe, as the poisons seep into watercourses or cause a gas build-up. Burning throws chemicals into the atmosphere, creates fall-out and leaves indestructible fly ash.

The European Community nations have also ruled that dumping industrial waste in the North Sea, which contaminates and kills marine life and enters the food chain, must end in 1992.

Mr Phillips says: "Hazardous waste can be fairly indestructible, so it seemed logical to bury waste 200 miles out at sea and five miles deep." He chose spent oil wells because, he says, the North Sea is stable geologically and because rock traps that can hold oil for millions of years can safely contain waste.

"The North Sea has had no significant earthquakes for 50,000 years and is not expected to produce a catastrophe," Mr Phillips says.

He and his wife, Emma, set up their company, PGI Environmental Systems, at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, to develop the idea, with backing from the National Westminster Bank. The company has discussed the process with the environment and energy departments, the agriculture ministry, and oil and chemical industries experts.

PGI is now about to design a treatment plant, likely to be built in northeast England. The waste will include hydrocarbons, acids, alkalis, polychlorinated biphenols – the infamous PCBs that come from industrial processes – and solutions containing mercury, cadmium, lead, zinc and chromium. Solids will be pulverised into a smooth solution.

The waste will then be shipped to the abandoned wells and pumped in through a metal-lined casing at least 5,000ft long. The filled wells will then be capped with 300ft-deep concrete plugs that meet government safety regulations.

The company is now awaiting a licence from the Ministry of Agriculture to start operations in 1992.

BRIAN COLLETT

Tomorrow's workforce will be wiser

JOBSCENE

Pop music and the computer industry have one thing in common: both businesses are staffed largely by young people. This may go without saying in music, but it is not entirely expected in computing.

In the case of computing, there are several reasons companies give to explain why they hire people mostly in their early to mid twenties: they have grown up alongside the industry, tend to be extremely enthusiastic about it, enjoy their work and are willing to spend long hours carrying it out.

Although the information technology departments of many large companies have, for the past ten years, had a policy of recruiting high-flying graduates, there are signs that this policy is changing.

"The feeling is coming through very strongly that the demographic downturn is getting to a stage where they are not going to get the young male graduates," Rick Firth, the director of training for the National Computing Centre, says. Although recruiting graduates has its advantages – their industry and enthusiasm being the most important – it also carries penalties. Taking on high-flyers means that they are all striving to get to the top, but only a few will ever do so. Staff turnover can, therefore, be high. Up to half of such recruits leave within the first two years.

According to Mr Firth, companies have found that by extending their catchment area for recruits, staff turnover is reduced, with no discernible loss in productivity.

The company that most personifies the youth culture of the computer industry, and is one of its most charismatic, is Apple Computer UK. Apple, founded by two young men, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak in the United States, has made a virtue of harnessing the enthusiasm of youth.

Mike Newton, the managing director in Britain is, at 41, one of the older members of staff. "We have very few senior citizens," says Frank O'Maboney, an Apple spokesman. He concedes that this may be a disadvantage, but argues that the company gained its maturity by working closely with outside consultants.

"One of the things that consultants help us with is providing a sense of maturity. Some of them have been around for ever and, when someone claims to have done something for the first time, they can often point out that it is probably the second or even the third time," Mr O'Maboney says.

The information technology press is becoming increasingly full of letters from disgruntled people, who are older than 40, complaining that their skills are not being taken up because of their age.

> 'Graduates lack the one thing that older generations can offer: experience'

The Institute of Personnel Management argues that the problem is not confined to the information technology sector, but certainly, because of the industry's youthful image, anybody beyond the age of 30 is considered as being out of touch with current developments. The computer industry, like the rest of the economy, is fast moving into recession. The biggest software and systems houses have laid off about 1,000 staff in the past three months and hardware manufacturers have been cutting back on employees. Inevitably, there has been a freeze on hiring in many companies.

The National Economic Development Council estimates that the demand for experienced information technology staff will grow by about 10 per rent a year while the number of young people leaving universities is falling.

Graduate recruits may be familiar with the latest technology and enthusiastic, but they lack the one thing that the older generation can offer: experience.

SEAN HALLAHAN

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DSTO DEFENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

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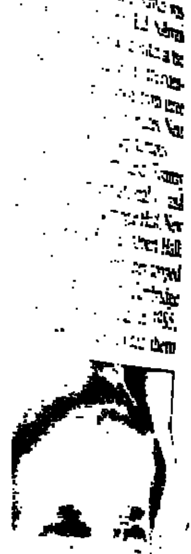

Does God give you the Spirit and work miracles among you because you do what the Law requires or because you hear the gospel and believe it? Galatians 3:5 GNB

BIRTHS

ADDIS - On November 12th, at the Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong, to Jon and Corky, a son, Daniel William John, a brother for Kate.

ASHBY-MULLER On November 10th 1990, to Auriol and Peter, a daughter Helen, sister for Kathryn.

BAGNALL - On November 8th, to Katy (née Rucio) and Charles, a son, David Christopher Gordon.

BARKER - On November 9th to Frances (née Leyland) and Philip, a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth.

BARRETT - On November 13th, to Amanda (Née Dawes) and Peter, a son Alexander George.

BASSETT - On November 10th, to Fiona (née Wheeler) and John, a daughter, Hannah and a son Oliver.

BRUCE - On November 12th to Antonia (née Sherman) and Michael, a son, Jonathan Ian, a brother for Anna.

EDEN - On November 14th to Henry and Alicia, a son, Oliver Henry Vane.

GALLAGHER SARTAR - On November 9th, in Brussels, to Arielle and Timothy, a son, Stanley.

GORVIN - On November 12th to Lucy (née O'Connor) and Shaun, a son, Sam William.

HAMILTON - On November 10th to Mary (née Mervyn Jones) and Michael, a son, Thomas Peter.

HARDEN - On November 6th to Penny (née Darling) and Jonathan, a daughter, Rosanna Helen.

HYNARD - On Friday, November 9th, at Ashford, Kent, to Lynne and David, a daughter, Louise Penelope, a sister for Katie.

HYNARD - On November 9th at Ashford, Kent, to Lynne and David, a daughter, Louise Penelope, a sister for Katie.

JEANES - On November 11th to Mary-Jane (née Zwar) and Gordon, a daughter, Catherine Sophie (a sister for Emily).

LAUNDER - On November 10th, to Alexandra (Née Barker) and Gavin, a second daughter, Amy Alexandra, a sister to Charlotte.

McINTEER - On November 13th in London at the Portland Hospital to Suzanne (née Lawrence) and Warren, a daughter, Caitlin Elizabeth.

MORGAN - On November 12th 1990, at the West London Hospital, to Nicky (Née Henderson) and Jon, a son, Maximilian James - a brother for Georgia

OAKLEY - On november 10th, to Sylvia and Martin, a daughter, Esther, a sister for Oliver and Edmund.

PALMER - On October 24th, to Lois and Charles, a son, James Alexander, a brother for Claire.

PRIDHAM - On November 12th at Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong, to Nicky (née Dennesa) and Richard, a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Mary.

PROUDLOCK - On November 13th 1990 to Joanne and James, a daughter

RITCHIE - On November 11th to Claire (née Farrar) and Keith, a son, William Peter Archibald, with many thanks to all the staff at St Thomas' Hospital.

SCOTT - On November 13th at Pembury Hospital, to Caroline (Née Roskell) and Jeremy, a daughter, Victoria Rose.

STARLING - On November 12th, at The Portland Hospital, to Beverley Adam and Graham, a daughter, Natasha Mary Adam.

THIELE - On November 13th in Albury, NSW to Jane and Michael, a daughter, Alexandra Louise.

WHITE - On November 9th, to Mary (Née Traynor) and Anthony, a beautiful daughter, Charlotte Emilie Mary.

YUILLE - On November 12th at Queen Charlotte's hospital, to Jennifer (Née Percival) and Andrew, a son, Alexander Buchanan.

DEATHS

ADLER - On November 14th 1990, peacefully in hospital, Kurt Moritz, aged 83, of McAllen, Texas, previously of Mexico City. Most loved and loving husband of Florence, father and grandfather.

ANDREAE - On November 12th, peacefully at St. Michael's Hospice, Hereford, Edina Philippa of The Hafod, Credenhill, Hereford, daughter of the late Dr E.P. and Mrs Andreae. Dearly loved sister of Mary, Janet, Buffy, John and Octavia and much loved Aunt and Great Aunt. Funeral service at St. Peter's Church, Tandridge, Oxted, on Wednesday, November 21st at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St. Michael's Hospice, c/o Ebbutt Funeral Services, High St., Limpsfield, Oxted, Surrey. Thanksgiving Service in January in Hereford to be announced later.

BRIGGS - On November 8th 1990 suddenly in St Mary's Hospital Westminster, Arthur Briggs of Piccadilly London. A dear brother and uncle and butler to the late Peter Coats. Funeral service at St James Church, Piccadilly on Thursday November 22nd at 3pm. Family flowers only but donations to The British Heart Foundation, c/o R A Brooks and Son, 35 Wivelsfield Road, Haywards Heath West Sussex Tel 0444 454 391

DAVIES - On November 13th Sir Arthur Davies K.B.E., Secretary-General Emeritus of the World Meteorological Organization, dearly loved husband of Mary and beloved father of Michael, Rosalind and Margaret.

DEAN - On November 13th 1990, Veronica, at Altrincham, formerly of Barnes, SW13. Much loved wife of Paul, mother of Ann, Timothy and Dinah, grandmother of Sarah, Paul, Jessica, Catherine, Peter, Ben, Katrina, Edward and Matthew. Funeral on Thursday, November 22nd at 11.45 AM, at St. Vincent's Catholic church, Altrincham. Family flowers preferred, donations, if desired, to Alzheimer's Disease Society, 158/160 Balham High Road, London, SW12 9BN.

FRANCHI On 13th November, suddenly (in Glasgow), Gr. Uff. Avv. Osvaldo Antonio Franchi (Franchi Wright & Co. & Italian Consul). Beloved husband of Rina Ventisei and dear father of Floriana, Leandro, Lorena, and Massimo. Fortified by the rights of Holy Church. Remains to St. Ninians Church, Knightswood, Glasgow today Thursday receiving at 7 p.m. Requiem Mass tomorrow Friday 16th November at 10 a.m. Funeral thereafter to St. Kentigern's Cemetery, Lambhill, Glasgow.

HAVARD - On November 14th, peacefully at St.Pancras Hospital in her 90th year, Ursula Jayne Vernon, dearly loved wife of the late Doctor A.W. Havard of Lowestoft, much loved mother of Doctor John Havard C.B.E and grandmother of Jeremy Richard and Amanda. Proud great grandmother of Edward and Lucy. Cremation at Putney Vale on Tuesday November 20th at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

HOGG - On November 13th in hospital, David Alexander Hogg O.B.E. aged 87 years. Dearly loved husband of Win and a much loved father and grandfather who will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Croydon Crematorium on Wednesday November 21st at 2.30 pm. No flowers by request but donations in his memory for Cancer Relief may be sent to JB Shakespeare Ltd. 67 George St. Croydon.

HUMPHRIS - On November 13th, 1990, aged 84, Aline, widow of Doctor John Humphris, loved and loving mother of Jane, Mary, Robert and James. Granny and Great Granny. Private cremation, family flowers only, followed by service at Middleton-by-Youlgrave Church on Tuesday November 20th at 3pm for family and friends.

HUNTER - On October 26th at Gairloch, Mary Lennox Hunter F.F.A.R.C.S., in her 88th year.

JOHNSTON - On November 12th, peacefully in hospital, at Bourton-On-The-Water, Ninian Rutherford Jamieson R.S.A., B.Arch., F.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.A.S., F.R.T.P.I., aged 78. Dearly beloved husband of Helen and father of Robin, Lesley and Frances. All friends are invited to attend the funeral service at St. Oswald's, Compton, Abdale, on Friday November 16th at 3.30 PM.

KIRCHER - On November 13th, peacefully at home at Emmer Green, Reading, Dr. Arthur Kircher, beloved husband of Rosemary, father of Elizabeth, Alison and John. Service at St. Barnabas Church, Emmer Green, Reading, on Wednesday November 21st at 2.15pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers, but donations for Radio Therapy Department, Royal Berkshire Hospital, C/O A.B.Walker & Son Ltd, 36 Eldon Road, Reading.

LEACH - On November 14th 1990, peacefully in Rose Hill Nursing Home, Dorking, Stanley, husband of the late Olive and father of Wendy, Roger and Andrew. Funeral Service on Tuesday, November 20th at Leatherhead Crematorium at 1.30pm. No flowers but donations for Cancer Research may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking.

MALNICK - On November 10th, peacefully in Greenwich, Bertha, much loved sister of Michael and Rhoda. Funeral service 11.45 am on Monday November 19th at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11. No flowers by request, but donations if desired to The Neurosurgical Unit, Brook General Hospital, Shooters Hill Road, London SE18.

MACDONELL - On November 10th 1990, suddenly, as a result of an accident, Jenny, daughter of A. G. Macdonell, dear friend of Dorothea (Button) of Broadwindsor. Cremation service at Yeovil Crematorium, Thursday November 22nd, 2.30 PM. No flowers by request please, donations, if desired, for Guide Dogs For The Blind (Alton branch) C/O. A. J. Wakely & Sons, Chapel House, Hermitage Street, Crewkerne, Somerset. Tel: 0460 74547.

McDONALD - On November 14th 1990, Duncan Ronald ("McD"), late of Duffield, Derbyshire formerly Company Secretary of Rolls Royce Ltd. Funeral Monday November 19th, service 10am in St Alkmund's Church, Duffield.

MILLER - On November 14th, 1990, peacefully and with great dignity in Edinburgh, William Mitchel M.V.O., beloved husband of Susan and dear father of Anna, Vicky, and Richard, and new grandfather of Lachlan. Funeral service at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel on Tuesday November 20th at 2.30 pm to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired may be sent to the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 9 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh.

OTTLEY - On November 10th, 1990, peacefully at Wray Common Nursing Home Reigate, Agnes May, aged 91, second daughter of the late Canon R L and Mrs Ottley. Formerly Principal of St Katharine's College, Tottenham. Funeral at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, Nr Crawley, on Monday November 19th, at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations for Save the Children Fund to Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Redhill Surrey.

REYNOLDS - On November 9th, suddenly at home, Laura of Bishop's Stortford, sadly missed by all her loving family. All enquiries please telephone Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd 0279 655477.

SCOTT - On November 13th suddenly aged 69 years, Cannon Edward Geoffrey Spencer, of Studley Road Ripon. Beloved husband of Ann, father of Edward, James and Andrew, father in law of Nessa. Requium at Ripon Cathedral, on Monday November 19th at 11 am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to The Ripon Cathedral Trust Appeal.

SEEAR - On November 14, Herbert John (Bertie), aged 84, peacefully in hospital, beloved husband of Betty after 54 happy years. Memorial service, St Andrew's Church, Kingswood, Thursday November 22nd, at 12 noon following private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to NSPCC, c/o Mrs Sally Corrigan, Woodend, The Chase, Kingswood, Surrey.

SHAW - On November 11th, John Charles Hawley aged 96 peacefully at Woking. Requiem at 12 noon on November 28th, at All Saints, Boxley, Maidstone. Details ring 023371 2689

WARD - On Tuesday, November 13th, peacefully at Chilton, Col. Edward John Sutton (Jackie) L.V.O., M.C., much loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral at St. Mary's, Chilton Foliat, 3pm Tuesday, November 20th; no memorial service.

WARIN - On November 14th, very peacefully at home, John Fairbairn Warin O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., aged 80. Dearest husband of Kathleen and father of Marigold, Eve, Robert (deceased) and Andrew. Much loved grandfather of Mark, Lisa, Ben, Richard, Natasha, Fiona, Joanna and Ben. Family funeral service on Friday November 16th at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Iffley, Oxford, at 11.00 am, flowers to Reeves and Pains, 288 Abingdon Rd, Oxford, OX1 4TE Tel. 242 529. Fax. 791. 856

WINFIELD - On November 14th 1990 peacefully Harry. Dearly beloved husband of Jan and a wonderful father to Sue and Roz. He was the founder, with Jan, of the National Holiday Fund for 1-parent families. The funeral will be held at The Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham at 3pm on Tuesday November 20th. No flowers please. Donations to The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, 63 Burkes Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 1PW.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

RICHARDSON - A Thanksgiving Service for the life of John Rex Edmund Richardson will be held at St. Oswald's Church, Green Lane, Norbury, SW16 on Saturday, November 24th 1990 at 12 noon.

WRIGHT - A Ceremony of Thanksgiving for the life of Ralph Wright, Professor of Medicine, will be held in the Turner Sims Concert Hall, University of Southampton, on Tuesday November 27th at 2.50 pm.

IN MEMORIAM – WAR

HOLT - In loving memory of Lieut. George Herbert Patrick Holt, Royal Armoured Corps, attd. 9th Lancers, killed in action in Italy on November 15th, 1944, aged 21. - Bridget Elizabeth Ann.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COL D.M. REID (Madras). Any family please contact U.G.F. Please Reply to Box No 2070

DESPERATELY Seeking George. Best wishes from Renate from Dillingen, Saarland. Please contact me immediately. My new address: Renate Schmitt, Primsstrasse 6, 6638 Dillingen. Dieffen. Tel: 010 49 6831 702907 or 75983.

THE Paul O'Gorman Foundation for Children with Leukaemia is pleased to announce the result of its free prize draw, held at the Grosvenor House Hotel on 10th November 1990. The lucky winners, who work at Hullbridge Community Centre in Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex, were drawn by Frank Bruno, who joins the Foundation in thanking everyone who took part.

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DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS

AARON DOMESTIC/Nanny Agency, exp. cook/housekeeper £15K + car, 2 bed flat required Surrey. Tel: (0892) 546601

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

IRELAND,
wanted couple for household in County Dublin. We need a nanny who can cook and a handyman with gardening experience. References and a clean driving license are essential for these positions. Lovely mews and a car will be available with an attractive salary for the right couple.
Please ring Liz at: Dublin (0001)-777 731 for further details.

CHALET GIRL, Private Chalet Meribel. Experienced cook, pleasant & reliable. Tel:033172717

HOUSEKEEPER - Surrey Village. Live in. Delightful country house (38 miles London). Look after elderly but active doctor and wife. Cooking and light domestic duties. Car driver and non-smoker preferred. Dog or cat welcome. Please Reply to Box No 2061

PART TIME Housekeeper required for golf club near M25, Swanley, Kent. Accomodation and good salary offered. Car driver preferred. Might suit student. Tel. 0322 863000

UNDER HOUSEKEEPER required full-time for country house in rural Hampshire. Other staff employed. Maximum age 50. Would suit couple where husband has other full-time position or single person. Must have own car. No young children and preferably no pets. Excellent cottage rent free. Must be prepared to be flexible - Apply to A M Goldthorpe Tel (0672) 63573

SITUATIONS WANTED

EXPERIENCED SEC/PA with languages, elegant, impeccable background, seeks position immediately. Preferably part time or alternate days. Salary negotiable. Tel: 071 228 6072

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - Westminster Christmas Appeal Trust
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number 281025-A1-CD(Ldn1).

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - Dean Symons Memorial Fund
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference SD-282865A/1-LA. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities - 1. RDS Centenary Fund 2. Peter Lund Scholarship and Prize Fund
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for these charities. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number 188533-(CD(Ldn3).

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charities - (1) The Caroline Haslett Memorial Fund (Electrical) (2) The Caroline Haslett Memorial Trust
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for these charities. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Albans House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference number 313244-A/1-CD(Ldn1).

LEGAL NOTICES

ACCESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS LIMITED
Registered number: 2102687. Nature of business: Suppliers of mobile communication systems. Trade classification: 21. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 2nd November 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank Plc. Keith David Goodman FCA and Kevin Paul Barry FCA Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos: 2407 and 5741) of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER BERNARD HICKS LIMITED
Registered number: 2145104. Nature of business: FURNITURE MANUFACTURE. Trade classification: DIVISION 2 09. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 6 NOVEMBER 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): BARCLAYS BANK PLC. NIGEL JAMES HAMILTON & WILLIAM MORYS ROBERTS Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 2090/01 and 2503/01. BECKET HOUSE 1 LAMBETH PALACE ROAD LONDON SE1 7EU

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER T W MEALING & SON LIMITED
Registered number: 469844. Nature of business: FURNITURE MANUFACTURE. Trade classification: DIVISION 2 09. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 6 NOVEMBER 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): BARCLAYS BANK PLC. NIGEL JAMES HAMILTON & WILLIAM MORYS ROBERTS Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 2090/01 and 2503/01. BECKET HOUSE 1 LAMBETH PALACE ROAD LONDON SE1 7EU

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver Henderson Timber & Boards Limited
Registered number: 2273782. Nature of business: Builders Merchants. Trade classification: 15. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 1/11/90. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank Plc. P R Copp & R Hocking Joint Administrative Receivers. Address: Stoy Hayward 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver Scantec Joinery Limited
Registered number: 228626. Nature of business: Builders Merchants. Trade classification: 15. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 1/11/90. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank Plc. P R Copp & P G Byrne. Joint Administrative Receivers. Address: Stoy Hayward 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF ATLANTIC SYSTEMS FINANCING LIMITED (In liquidation)
On 22 October 1990 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. I and my partner JF Soden of Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL have been appointed liquidators.
Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidators at the above address.
Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidators. The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
Yours faithfully
RC Boys-Stones
Joint Liquidator
Date 12 November 1990

Aztek Productions Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 1 Blythswood Square, Glasgow on 22 November 1990 at 12 o'clock noon. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a statement of affairs and a report on the company from the director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation Committee.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse on the two preceeding business days.
Proxies for use at the meeting may be returned to 1 Blythswood Square, Glasgow by 21 November 1990 and claims must be made in writing and may be made to the same address.
By order of the Board
MJ Woolfson
Date: 19/11/90

BOWFINCH LIMITED t/a SPAN
I, NICHOLAS ROGER BROMFIELD FCA of CORK GULLY, Oriel House, 55 Sheep Street, Northampton was appointed Liquidator of the above-named Company on the 29th October 1990 by the Creditors.
Dated: 12th November 1990
N.R.B. GODDEN FCA
Liquidator

DRIVELINE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, the undersigned David John Mason Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HD, was appointed Liquidator of Driveline Employment Services Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's creditors held on 30th October 1990.
DAVID JOHN MASON
Liquidator
dated this 8th day of November 1990

LEGAL NOTICES

Aztek Productions Limited
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at 1 Blythswood Square, Glasgow on 22 November 1990 at 12 o'clock noon. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.
A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse on the two preceeding business days.
Proxies for use at the meeting may be returned to 1 Blythswood Square, Glasgow by 21 November 1990 and claims must be made in writing and may be made to the same address.
By Order of the Board
MJ Woolfson
Date 19/11/90

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 and IN THE MATTER OF ELECTRON SYSTEMS (MARKETING) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 22nd November 1990 at 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Jamie Taylor, FIPA, of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require
DATED this 8th day of November, 1990.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
A. LENHERR.
DIRECTOR

MESSAGE (UK) LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & CO., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on Friday, the 23rd day of November, 1990 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Sections 98 et seq.
A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated the 8th day of November 1990
J LASKY
Director

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER BARRETT DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
Registered number: 1106373. Nature of business: FURNITURE MANUFACTURE. Trade classification: DIVISION 2 09. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 6 NOVEMBER 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): BARCLAYS BANK PLC. NIGEL JAMES HAMILTON & WILLIAM MORYS ROBERTS Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 2090/01 and 2503/01. BECKET HOUSE 1 LAMBETH PALACE ROAD LONDON SE1 7EU

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER NU TREND UPHOLSTERY LIMITED
Registered number: 916980. Nature of business: FURNITURE MANUFACTURE. Trade classification: DIVISION 2 09. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 6 NOVEMBER 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): BARCLAYS BANK PLC. NIGEL JAMES HAMILTON & WILLIAM MORYS ROBERTS Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 2090/01 and 2503/01. BECKET HOUSE 1 LAMBETH PALACE ROAD LONDON SE1 7EU

FLOORLIFE-ANDEK LIMITED -In Administrative Receivership-
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel, Baker Street, London W1 at 11.00 hrs on Wednesday 28 November 1990 for the purpose of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the Joint Administrative Receivers under S 48 of the said Act and, if thought fit, appointing a Committee.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
Other creditors are only entitled to vote if:
a) they have delivered to the address shown below, no later than 12.00 hrs on 27 November 1990 written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the company, and their claims have been duly admitted under the provisions of r.3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and
b) there has been lodged at this office any proxy which the creditor intends to use on his behalf
R Hocking
Joint Administrative Receiver
8 November 1990
Stoy Hayward
8 Baker Street
London W1M 1DA

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver SOCIETY HOTELS LTD
Registered number: 1532918. Trading name: PRINCE REGENT HOTEL. Nature of business: HOTELIERS. Trade classification. 47. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 6 NOVEMBER 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers. MIDLAND BANK PLC. PETER RICHARD COPP AND GEORGE ALBERT AUGER. Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 1788 & 1067. Address: STOY HAYWARD 8 BAKER STREET LONDON W1M 1DA

LEGAL NOTICES

In the matter of KEMBLE MILL LIMITED and in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986
KEMBLE MILL LIMITED Registered number: 2293391. Trading name: JON-A-ZEL. Nature of business: MANUFACTURER OF CHILDRENS LEISURE WEAR AND SPORTS WEAR Trade classification 08. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 6 NOVEMBER 1990 name of person appointing the administrative receivers THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND plc. RICHARD JAMES REES AND ROGER MARSH Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): R J REES 4620 & R MARSH 5926) Address PRICE WATERHOUSE SOUTHGATE HOUSE 61 MILLSTONE LANE LEICESTER LE1 5QA

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver TAMESIDE WINDOWS LIMITED
Registered number: 2036368. Trading name TRADING WINDOWS. Nature of business: MANUFACTURE AND INSTALLATION OF WINDOWS. Trade classification. 11 Date of appointment of administrative receivers 31 OCTOBER 1990 name of person appointing the administrative receivers AIB BANK AJP BRERETON AND R MARSH Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 5884 and 5926 Address. C/O PRICE WATERHOUSE YORK HOUSE YORK STREET MANCHESTER M2 4WS

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER HARBOURNE UPHOLSTERY LIMITED
Registered number: 1451900. Nature of business: FURNITURE MANUFACTURE. Trade classification DIVISION 2 09 Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 6 NOVEMBER 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): BARCLAYS BANK PLC NIGEL JAMES HAMILTON & WILLIAM MORYS ROBERTS Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 2090/01 and 2503/01. BECKET HOUSE 1 LAMBETH PALACE ROAD LONDON SE1 7EU

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver ISOLABELLA LTD
Registered number 2057627 Trading name PRINCE REGENT HOTEL Nature of business HOTELIERS Trade classification 47 Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 6 NOVEMBER 1990 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers MIDLAND BANK PLC PETER RICHARD COPP AND GEORGE ALBERT AUGER Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos) 1788 & 1067. Address STOY HAYWARD 8 BAKER STREET LONDON W1M 1DA

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver PRINCE REGENT KOSHER CATERING LTD
Registered number 2066544 Nature of business: CATERERS. Trade classification 47 Date of appointment of administrative receivers 6 NOVEMBER 1990 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers MIDLAND BANK PLC PETER RICHARD COPP AND GEORGE ALBERT AUGER Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos) 1788 & 1067. Address STOY HAYWARD 8 BAKER STREET LONDON W1M 1DA

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver Albamore Limited
Registered number: 2388506. Nature of business Builders Merchants. Trade classification 15. Date of appointment of administrative receivers 1/11/90 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank Plc P R Copp & R Hocking Joint Administrative Receivers. Address: STOY HAYWARD 8 BAKER STREET LONDON W1M 1DA

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver Davilliam Products Plc
Registered number: 1248599. Nature of business Builders Merchants. Trade classification: 15. Date of appointment of administrative receivers 1/11/90 Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Barclays Bank Plc. P R Copp & R Hocking. Joint Administrative Receivers. Address: STOY HAYWARD 8 BAKER STREET LONDON W1M 1DA

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF ATLANTIC COMPUTER LEASING LIMITED (In liquidation)
On 22 October 1990 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. I and my partner JF Soden of Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL have been appointed liquidators.
Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidators at the above address.
Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidators. The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
Yours faithfully
RC Boys-Stones
Joint Liquidator
Date 12 November 1990

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF ATLANTIC COMPUTER (FUNDS) LIMITED (In liquidation)
On 22 October 1990 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. I and my partner JF Soden of Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL have been appointed liquidators.
Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidators at the above address.
Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidators. The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
Yours faithfully
RC Boys-Stones
Joint Liquidator
Date 12 November 1990

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF COMCAP (UK) LIMITED (In liquidation)
On 22 October 1990 the company was placed in creditors' voluntary liquidation. I and my partner JF Soden of Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL have been appointed liquidators.
Creditors of the company are requested to send details in writing, of their claims against the company to the liquidators at the above address.
Claims need not be in any particular form, but creditors wishing to claim VAT bad debt relief are requested to complete the form issued by the liquidators. The liquidators reserve their right to require a creditor to support his or her claim by affidavit.
Yours faithfully
RC Boys-Stones
Joint Liquidator
Date 12 November 1990

Overseas Distribution Company Limited -In Administration-
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Section 23 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at Durrants Hotel, George Street London W1M 6BJ (Edward VII Room) on Monday 19th November 1990 at 2 p.m. to consider the Joint Administrators' proposals under Section 23(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 and to consider establishing a committee of creditors.
Dated this 2nd day of November 1990
G A Auger · T J Newman
Joint Administrators

PAPERFECT LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, the undersigned David John Mason Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 1HD was appointed Liquidator of Paperfect Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's creditors held on 2nd November 1990.
DAVID JOHN MASON
Liquidator
dated this 8th day of November 1990

S. AUSTIN (OFFICE FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS) LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of LEONARD CURTIS & CO., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on Wednesday, the 21st day of November, 1990 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.
A list of the names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated the 7th day of November 1990
PAUL MICALLEF
Director

SHAW INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named company will be held at 6 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2LP on Friday, 30th November, 1990 at 2.00 p.m. for the purposes mentioned in Sections 48 and 49 of the said Act.
Dated this eighth day of November, 1990
PANOS ELIADES
ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER

STATUTORY DEMAND
To WILLIAM JOHN COOK of High Trees House, Savernake Forest, Marlborough, Wiltshire
TAKE NOTICE that two Statutory Demands have been issued by Bray Walker (A Firm) of 36 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1JQ. The creditor demands payment as follows.(1) First Statutory Demand - £1,351.51 the amount now due on a Judgment of the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division dated the 24th day of August 1990 (Action number 1990 - B - 6019)
(2) Second Statutory Demand - £1,051.31 the amount now due on a Judgment of the Mayor's & City of London County Court dated the 15th day of August 1990 (Case Number 9002769)
These Statutory Demands are important documents and are deemed to have been served on you on the date of the first appearance of this advertisement. You must deal with the demands within 21 days of the service upon you or you could be made bankrupt and your property and goods taken away from you. If you are in any doubt as to your position, you should seek advice immediately from a solicitor or your nearest Citizen's Advice Bureau. The Statutory Demands can be obtained or are available for inspection and collection from:
EVELYN MARY JAMES of Bray Walker Solicitors 36 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1JQ Articled clerk employed by the creditor firm Reference SMW/EJ/2698
Tel. No 071 430 0473
You have only 21 days from the date of the first appearance of this advertisement before the creditor may present a bankruptcy petition

SUNRIDGE PROPERTIES LIMITED
Registered number: 2346962. Nature of business: PROPERTY DEVELOPERS. Trade classification: 7. Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 7th November 1990. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Woolwich Building Society. KEVIN PAUL BARRY, FCA & KEITH DAVID GOODMAN, FCA Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos): 5741 and 2407) of LEONARD CURTIS & CO 30 EASTBOURNE TERRACE LONDON W2 6LF

FINANCIAL NOTICES

EQUITY & GENERAL PLC
Following the temporary suspension of the above company's listing from the International Stock Exchange, London, all Ordinary shareholders are hereby informed that the listing will be cancelled with effect from 19 November 1990.

NOV 15 — ON THIS DAY — 1928

The Vestris (10,494 tons) sank off the coast of Virginia on November 12; the captain, 43 of the crew and 68 passengers were drowned.

LOST LINER

NEW YORK, Nov. 14: The first survivors of the wreck of the liner Vestris were landed in New York this morning by the steamships American Shipper and Berlin. There were 148 on the two ships. With eight still at sea in the battleship Wyoming and 54 in the Myriam, they are all that are left alive of the 129 passengers and the crew of 199 who set forth from here in the Vestris last Saturday. Hardly one chance in a hundred remains that any others have been rescued.

Among those who have almost certainly perished are the captain of the ill-fated ship, Mr. William J. Carey, yesterday falsely reported rescued, and her chief wireless operator, Mr. Michael O'Loughlin. Captain Carey leaped into the sea as the ship went down and was not seen again. He wore no life preserver. The last heard of Mr O'Loughlin was his wireless message of farewell to a land station an hour before the sinking occurred.

One of the most vivid stories of the tragedy was told by Mr. T. E. Mack, an electrical engineer at Tacla, Wyoming, who was rescued by the Berlin. "At 4 o'clock on Sunday morning," he said, "a hurricane started to blow up. It blew all day Sunday. On Sunday night a bulkhead broke and the boiler room was flooded. Early next morning the Vestris developed a strong list to starboard. Most of the passengers were awake all night Sunday because of the force of the storm and we realised something serious was wrong early Monday morning when the ship heeled over and furniture began to slide and crash down to the right. At 6 o'clock on Monday morning the sea suddenly became calmer, and we thought the ship might get straightened around all right. But at 10 o'clock the list was more pronounced, and finally the captain ordered the lifeboats to be launched.

LIFEBOATS CAPSIZED

"They started with the four on the port side, Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 10. I was in No. 8. While it was being lowered, it crashed against the side of the Vestris and spilled everybody out. Four and six were capsized too, I think. By this time the Vestris was lying over on its side, and everybody knew it would soon take a plunge. People began to jump from the sharply sloping decks, and the lifeboats were pulling away from the ship to keep clear of suction when she sank.

"I was about 50 ft. away when the Vestris disappeared, bow first, with a twisting motion to starboard. There were about 80 people in the water now, between those who had deliberately jumped and others who had spilled out of the lifeboats.

"I started swimming towards a lifeboat. When I came close I saw that it was loaded to the limit. I swam away without even asking them to take me on board. Then I remembered that my travelling companion, Maxey, was around somewhere. I located him, and together we started out to find another lifeboat. We found one manned by a coloured crew."

The boat leaked and they had to bale constantly. At 9 o'clock a sleet storm set in, with a heavy squall adding to their misery. They passed three other lifeboats, two of them equipped with sails.

About 1 or 2 in the morning they saw two vessels, one a tanker, and then another vessel with a searchlight. But they had no flares, and in the storm their shouts were not heard. After circling around for a while, the vessels moved off and the shipwrecked men went back to rowing and baling. It was hours later before the Berlin rescued them.

To Place Your Classified Advertisement

Please telephone the number listed below between 9am and 6pm Monday to Friday (late evening 7.30 pm on Thursday or between 9.30am and 1.00pm on Saturdays).

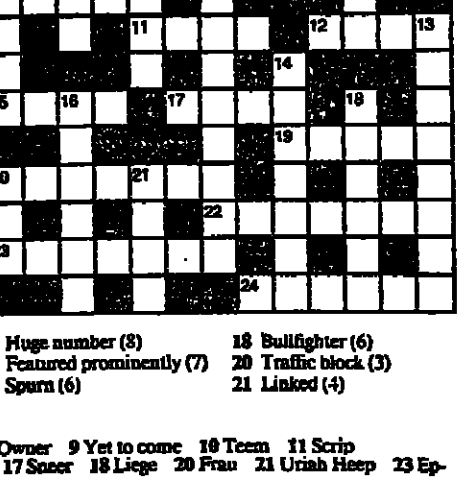
Private 071-481 4000

Trade Advertisers:

Appointments	071-481 4481
Birth, Marriage and Death Notices	071-481 4000
Business to Business	071-481 1982
International Advertisers	071-481 3024
Motors	071-481 4422
Personal	071-481 1920
Property	071-481 1986
Public Appts & Education	071-481 1066
Travel	071-481 1989
U.K. Holidays	071-488 3698

Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone. For publication the following day please telephone by 5.00pm Monday - Thursday
4.00pm Friday, 9.00 am-1.00pm Saturday for Monday's paper.
Marriage notices not appearing on the Court & Social Page may also be accepted by telephone.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2333



ACROSS
1 Demons (6)
6 Friable (7)
8 Wither (7)
9 Misgiving (7)
10 Off the cuff (2,3)
11 Appreciate (4)
12 Glance through (4)
15 Sling (4)
17 Crooked (4)
19 Coral reef circle (5)
20 Samurai self-defence (2,5)
22 Sub missile (7)
23 Derisive imitation (7)
24 Repugnant (6)

DOWN
1 Send (8)
2 Manly (6)
3 Adorable (7)
4 Curse (4)
5 Naked dash (6)
6 Anna Sewell horse (5,6)
7 Hereward Isle (3)
13 Huge number (8)
14 Featured prominently (7)
16 Spurn (6)
18 Bullfighter (6)
20 Traffic block (3)
21 Linked (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2332
ACROSS: 2 Fire 4 Club 7 Owner 9 Yet to come 10 Teem 11 Scrip 12 Erect 13 Orbit 15 Extra 17 Sneer 18 Liege 20 Frau 21 Uriah Heep 23 Epoch 24 Dyke 25 Crew
DOWN: 1 Interest 2 Fry 3 Retard 5 Loot 6 Breakthrough 7 On the rebound 8 Porpoise 11 Stealthy 14 Beetroot 16 Veneer 19 Bilk 22 Pew

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

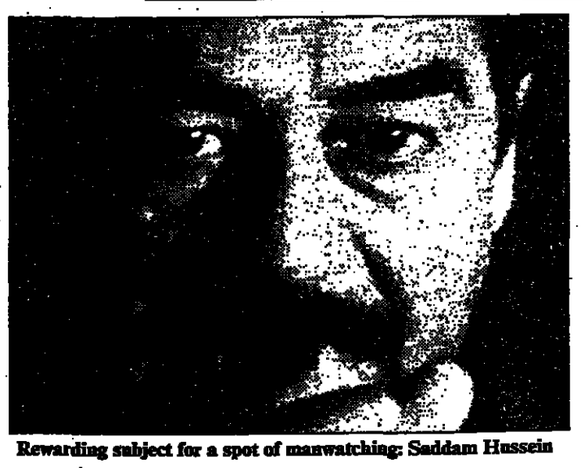
The fun and strains of office

Fifty years before Desmond Morris popularised *manwatching – the study of* people's mannerisms and behaviour as a means of determining their character and motivation — the physician Sir William Osler decreed that the doctor who was unable to sum up a patient between the consulting room door and the inquisitional chair by his desk would be more likely to end in Carey Street than Harley Street.

Television has increased the scope of spot diagnosis. Doctors practised in this art are no longer restricted to their own patients, for now the famous are paraded daily for examination on the small screen in their own homes. The study of Saddam Hussein's changing demeanour has been especially rewarding. One well-known London physician says: "Saddam Hussein initially looked like a between-the-wars infantry company commander, only competent and assured because he had a comparatively limited sphere of command. But now he looks like a field officer who has been untimely promoted to command an army. He seems harried and out of his intellectual depth."

The physician adds that he suspects Saddam is now a man whose lack of self-assurance *causes him to become increasingly* dependent on top-level advisers. Like many doctors, this physician has noticed that Saddam's blink-rate has quickened, that his previously steady gaze and bland smile have been replaced by fidgeting, darting looks and a strained expression. We do not need a doctor to point out that Saddam's shirts no longer fit (a rough guide is that if a finger can be placed between the shirt collar and the neck of a patient, the patient has lost about a stone), and that his face, once smooth, is now creased and baggy, presumably from disturbed sleep and loss of appetite.

Dr Hugh L'Etang, author of *The Pathology of Leadership* and *Fit to Lead*, who is acknowledged as Britain's leading expert on the influence of statesmen's health on history, has studied from afar Saddam's avowed antagonist, our own prime minister. In his opinion, Mrs Thatcher has suffered from being trained in a pure rather than a biological science. Her lack of understanding of people is, in his view, the result of being taught to think in terms of scientific certainty represented by chemical symbols, equations and reactions, rather than the study of the infinitely variable reaction of people to events.



Rewarding subject for a spot of manwatching: Saddam Hussein

Dr L'Etang worries about the prime minister's retirement. "World leaders have tremendous fun, and are usually stimulated by their life. Its strains have been grossly exaggerated, for they are spared the daily round of trivial tasks and worries. Sir Winston Churchill suffered severe depression once he lost the stimulation of the red boxes; Mrs Thatcher will probably behave in a similar way. For her to be pensioned off to Dulwich would be a dreadful fate. She needs a gradual transition to private life; I would prescribe immediate elevation to the Lords once she retires."

Drink and be merry

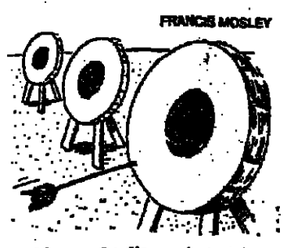
Nobody denies the hazards of excessive drinking. Some doctors are so influenced by the damage it can cause that they close their minds to the overwhelming evidence that small quantities of alcohol prolong rather than limit life, and are forced into trying to explain statisticians' findings with arguments which are looking increasingly questionable.

Those who are not averse to a couple of glasses of Château Cissac with their dinner should know that the eminently reputable American journal, *Epidemiology*, reports on a huge survey which convincingly demonstrates the advantages of a small to moderate intake of alcohol.

Between 1959 and 1971 the authors followed 276,802 men aged between 40 and 59. The sensible, moderate drinkers had a *30 per cent reduction* in deaths from coronaries and thrombosis. Even more remarkably, the light drinkers, taking one or two drinks a day, were also less likely to die from strokes or cancer, the other great killers in this age group.

Dr Curtis Ellison, of the Boston University School of Medicine, sums up these findings. "Based on current knowledge, the American male who does not have a bleeding tendency and is not at increased risk of alcohol abuse, who wants to reduce the risk of heart disease, might well consider the advantages of washing down his daily aspirin with a glass of cabernet." Earlier research involving some 80,000 American nurses shows that similar statistics apply to women.

Trendy Shula



FRANCIS MOSLEY

It must be pure coincidence that Shula of *The Archers* suffered an ectopic pregnancy, a condition in which the baby is implanted, and starts to grow, in the confined surroundings of the fallopian tube, rather than in the expandable womb, in the same week that the *British Medical Journal*'s first leading article was on tubal pregnancies.

The causes of ectopic pregnancy, which is becoming much more common, are legion, and include pelvic surgery, such as that for appendicitis, and the use of intrauterine contraceptive devices. The most important cause is inadequately treated sexually transmitted infection. Nearly 80 per cent of women who suffer an ectopic pregnancy have antibodies to clamydia, the organism which causes nonspecific urethritis (NSU), and 32 per cent show immunological evidence of past gonorrhoea. Shula's admirers should not forget that when she spurned Mark he went to the Far East, an area not famed for its continence, while she herself had a few unwise dalliances.

The standard and safe treatment for an ectopic pregnancy is excision of the tube together with its contained pregnancy, but now that ultrasound (including vaginal ultrasound) and sensitive blood testing for pregnancy are making early diagnosis easier, it is sometimes possible to use conservative surgery. One remarkable example was recently recorded at the Lister hospital in London. A young patient who had given birth to twins 11 months previously consulted Mr John Scurr, a general surgeon, when she developed severe abdominal pain. An ultrasound showed pregnancy successfully developing in the uterus, but Mr Scurr thought that one of the tubes looked suspicious and sought the opinion of Mr Sam Abdalla, a gynaecologist. The surgeons performed a laparoscopic examination, and found that the patient had another twin pregnancy, with one baby in the womb, one in a tube; using the laparoscope they removed the affected tube through a keyhole incision, leaving the baby in the womb undisturbed and one tube intact, enabling her to try, should she wish it, for another baby. Shula can take heart. About 50 per cent of women who have an ectopic pregnancy will have a normal one later; but the sooner she tries the better, because most women who later conceive do so in the first year after surgery.

Can common sense rule the microwaves?

As MPs study the safety of microwave ovens and manufacturers act to allay fears, Ann Kent reports on resistance in Britain to the gadget

Half the homes in the land own one and the other half seem determined not to. Today a select committee on agriculture will consider the safety of the device in question: the microwave oven.

The committee will be solely concerned with the ability of the ovens to heat food to the temperatures required to kill off food poisoning bacteria. Its investigation follows government-sponsored research published last December which showed that *30 per cent of microwave* ovens failed this test. However, market research reveals that the decision to own or not to own a microwave is made for reasons which have little to do with food poisoning.

Detailed interviews carried out by a market research company, Strategic Research Group (SRG), reveal that culinary pride (or snobbery) exerts a powerful influence on whether the gadget is featured in the kitchen. Non-owners believe that there is no emotional satisfaction to be gained from this kind of cooking, and that microwaved foods do not look as appetising as those which are removed from a conventional oven. Some express scorn for those who seem dependent on their microwave, while others express worries about safety.

While microwave users believe their ovens are safe, many non-users fear that dangerous forms of radiation are emitted. Some feel it is unsafe even to look through the oven door while it is in use, or to open the oven to stir the food.

Such fears sound all too familiar to Malcolm Shaw, the deputy director general of the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (AMDEA). "There are people out there who won't have a microwave no matter what you tell them. It was the same with television in the Fifties. Some people thought that if you sat in front of the screen your skin would go green and fall off. As soon as you mention radiation, people's minds shut down."

According to Philip Chadwick, the higher scientific officer with the National Radiological Protection Board, microwaves do not normally present a radiation hazard. In addition to their use in cooking, they are used medically to heat muscle tissue, *easing the pain of sports* injuries, and are produced in industry to cure wood and leather products.

Mr Chadwick explains that there are two main forms of radiation: ionising radiation, at one end of the electromagnetic spectrum, which is powerful enough to kick electrons out of their orbits and can kill or damage human cells; and non-ionising radiation, which simply agitates molecules without changing the nature of the atom. Microwaves belong in the second group, "creating their heating effect by agitating the water molecules in food", he says.

> 'It was the same with television in the Fifties. As soon as you mention radiation, people's minds shut down'

Microwaves, which are produced by a magnetron inside the oven, are bounced off the metal walls of the appliance. The waves are unable to penetrate through the metal, and safety back-up devices ensure that the oven cuts out if the door is opened. However, Mr Chadwick says if the door or its seals are bent or damaged, "there is a risk of burning if you were very close to the oven, or actually touching the door".

Another fear expressed by non-users may be better justified: the fear that the technology is too recent for the full effects of usage to be known and researched. In fact, although microwave ovens have been available in Britain since the early Sixties, doubts about their heating properties have emerged only recently.

The rumble of concern began in January last year, when a letter in *The Lancet* from the Institute of Food Research in Norwich revealed *the findings of its own* microwave cooking experiments with chickens. This showed that while high temperatures were recorded in some parts of the birds' bodies, there were cool spots elsewhere. Food poisoning bacteria such as salmonella, which is commonly found in poultry, and listeria, which is a problem in cook/chill foods, can be destroyed only by thorough heating. The letter stressed that to avoid the risk of food poisoning, microwave ovens must achieve temperatures of at least 70C throughout the foods prepared in them.

The following summer the London Food Commission (now renamed the Food Commission) announced that microwaves were less efficient than conventional ovens in destroying the micro-organisms which cause food poisoning. It also cited another difficulty, which still persists. The wattage on domestic microwaves varies between 500 and 750, but manufacturers' instructions on pre-cooked and frozen foods are generally written only for machines powered by about 600 watts. This mean that even when the ovens are working efficiently, the public might not be heating foods long enough to render them safe. The commission recommended that microwaves should be used only for foods known to be bacteriologically safe (which would rule out poultry), and that the ovens should be kept scrupulously clean to avoid contamination.

In August 1989 the government ordered an urgent study of the performance of microwave ovens after a pilot project found that one in five of those tested failed to heat food through adequately. The Consumers' Association reacted by suggesting the public should not use microwaves to reheat cooked foods.

In December the results of a second study into the efficiency of microwaves was published, with even more dismaying results. Tests on 102 microwave ovens from 24 manufacturers revealed that 30 per cent left "cold spots" where the safe temperature of 70C was not achieved. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which had commissioned the research, refused to name the substandard ovens. However, a number of microwave manufacturers voluntarily withdrew or modified their ovens.

Today representatives of the microwave manufacturers will tell the select committee that they have established a standardised testing procedure, so that one manufacturer's 650 watt oven is guaranteed to be just the same, in terms of power, as another's. This was not the case before. The food manufacturers are working on improving instructions so that people with ovens of lower or higher power than the average of 600-650 watts will know how long they need to cook their food.

The final step will be for new domestic microwave ovens to be given a power rating between one and five, which will allow food manufacturers to simplify the instructions on packaging.

SRG says microwave users, who seem a lot happier than the government with their ovens, fall into three groups. The first are single people who regard cooking as a chore to be dispensed with as quickly as possible. They claim to be entirely dependent on microwaves, using them to heat drinks, bake potatoes and produce convenience meals. Many people in this group are putting themselves at risk of food poisoning, because they do not follow the instruction to allow the food to stand for a while after it is removed from the oven, an essential process to allow microwaves to penetrate right to the centre of the food.

The second group are more likely to follow manufacturers' recommendations as they are still at the experimental stage, keenly consulting the recipe books and trying new ideas.

The third group, described as core users, tend to be confident female cooks who know their microwaves in the same way as they know their ordinary ovens, and feel sure they would notice cold spots in their food.

The SRG researchers conclude: "All owners that we spoke to were very satisfied with their microwaves and were not unduly worried about the scares . . . Nevertheless there was some evidence to suggest they were using it differently and with more care . . . The majority feeling seemed to be that one had to take care with food preparation and obey the 'rules', and then there was little cause for concern."

However, while half the nation is convinced of the value of the microwave, the other half is proving slow to *convert. The percentage of* households with microwaves increased from 30 per cent in 1987 to 47 per cent in 1989. But in 1990 the estimate was roughly 50 per cent, an obvious slowdown.

AMDEA's Mr Shaw says there has not been a single proven case where food poisoning could be traced to the domestic microwave. "Our position is that provided people use the common sense they are born with and follow normal kitchen hygiene practices, the ovens are safe."

The select committee will now have to decide if the changes proposed by microwave and food manufacturers — and the public's common sense — are enough to avoid the risks of food poisoning.

Anyone for a burger? Food minister John Gummer and his wife, Penny, happy at home with their microwave

DEBATE ON PACKAGING HEATS UP

OVER the past decade consumers have become accustomed to taking plastic boxes covered with thin film straight from freezer to microwave, to re-heating leftover foods through cling-film wrappings, and to eating burgers or bacon rolls which have been microwaved inside polystyrene boxes.

This week the food surveillance group of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food called for more research into the plasticiser ATBC (acetyl tributyl citrate), originally designed for use in microwave ovens and which has increasingly been used as a substitute for DEHA, the plasticiser which was the subject of a 1987 health scare.

A year ago the United States Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) was warning Americans that "the containers and packages we use in microwave cooking could be releasing potentially harmful substances into our food". Most dangerous, the US Food and Drug Administration found, were the new "heat susceptors" which concentrate heat to brown certain microwavable foods such as pizzas and chips. When the FDA heated oil in susceptor packages, according to its newsletter, "every package tested released synthetic chemicals into the oil".

Sue Dibb, the editor of the Food Commission's *Food Magazine*, which brought the packaging question to the attention of British consumers in July, says her researchers were also worried by the foods they found being microwaved in polystyrene — "of which there is some evidence of carcinogenicity", she claims.

This is an assertion a spokesman for the British Plastics Federation hotly disputes. David Cadogan of ICI, a spokesman for the British Plastics Federation, says that for the moment in Britain, "the majority of the toxicological work has been sponsored by the industry".

Dr Ann Smith of Maff says that the American research cannot be taken as gospel. "The composition of our packaging is not necessarily the same, and while we are aware of the American research it is not always applicable to the UK."

Ms Dibb is planning further studies of the effects of microwaves on food packaging for a future issue, and the *Food Magazine* has expressed concern over whether "proposed EC limits are tight enough to provide sufficient consumer protection" when the new plastics directive becomes EC law in January 1993.

The increased use of ATBC has prompted Maff to ask for better labelling on it, offering consumer advice on how to use the previously-labelled "microwave-safe" films which, it suggests, are safe for "covering containers or reheating meals on plates", but not "for lining dishes or wrapping food whilst cooking in a microwave oven".

Dr Melanie Miller, a food specialist with the Consumers' Association, while warning people not to worry unduly and "to follow the ministry's advice not to wrap fatty foods in cling film, or to cook in direct contact with the film", disparages "the guinea-pig theory that says we should all use these things until they are proved unsafe, rather than the other way around".

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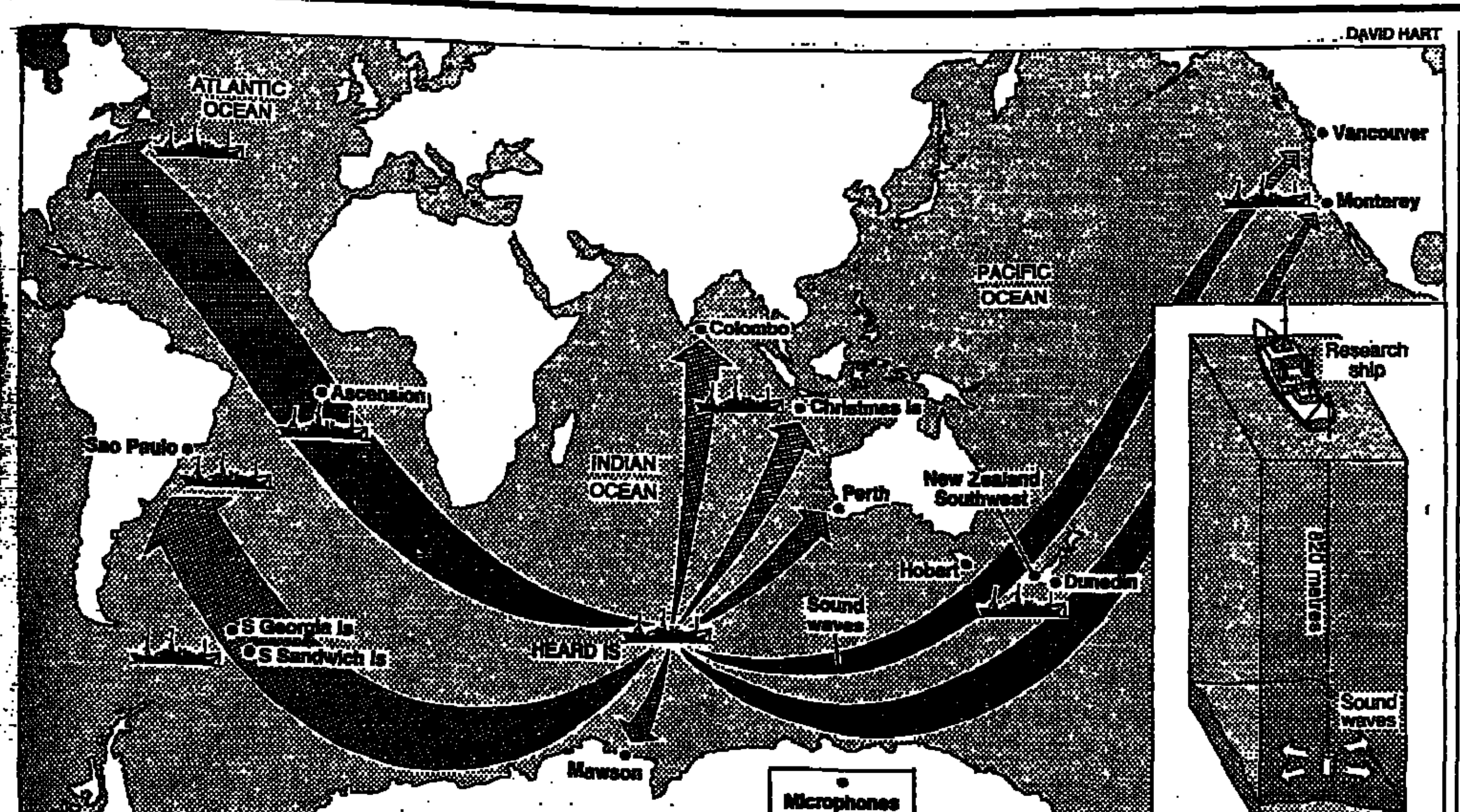


Source: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Sound of global warming

Scientists and ships from 12 countries are to unite in a £2 million project to blast a sound, almost as loud as a jet taking off, through the oceans to discover whether the Earth is heating up. Nigel Hawkes tests the water

Research scientists are planning to measure whether the Earth is warming by making a noise deep in the Indian Ocean, and timing how long the sound takes to travel around the world.

The higher the ocean temperature, the faster the sound will reach detectors thousands of miles away. A rise of even a fraction of a degree should be detectable and, within ten years, if the experiment works, unequivocal evidence should be available of any warming or cooling trend in the oceans. Since ocean and atmosphere are closely linked, that would be proof of global warming, or cooling.

The sounds, almost as loud as a jet taking off, will be made by loudspeakers lowered from a United States navy ship, Corey Chouest, moored off Heard Island, a volcanic island, covered in ice, between Australia and Antarctica. This inhospitable spot was chosen because there are direct "paths" from it for the sound to travel each one of the world's five oceans.

Microphones in the sea off Bermuda, San Francisco, Colombo, South Georgia, Hobart and Perth and at Mawson, the Australian base in Antarctica, will listen for the sound, which will take several hours to reach the most distant points. The oceanographers behind the experiment are sure it will be audible. Twenty years ago, a sound made in the ocean off Western Australia was picked up without difficulty in Bermuda, half way around the world.

Sound waves are trapped in a layer of ocean water about a kilometre below the surface and this acts as a wave guide. Sounds cannot dissipate upwards because of a boundary between warm water at the surface and colder water beneath. Sounds do not travel downwards because of the increasing pressure at greater depths. As a result, Dr Walter Munk, the experiment's originator, of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, says the sound has no choice but to travel horizontally along this wave guide, rather like the sound in a doctor's stethoscope.

Some naturalists believe that whales use the wave guide as a way of sending messages to one another. If so, they are likely to get a few crossed lines when the Corey Chouest starts operations at the end of January next year. The ship will lower an electrically powered acoustic source, originally designed for the US navy, 820 metres down to get it into the wave guide region. The source will then emit pulses of sound.

The frequency of the sounds will be 60 cycles a second, which to the human ear would be audible as low booms, and its loudness, at 209 decibels, will be just less than the effect of standing next to a jet airliner taking off. Three-and-a-half hours later, if all goes well, the sounds will be heard by hydrophones off Bermuda and San Francisco.

The time they take to get there will be influenced by ocean currents and by salinity as well as water temperature. Dr Munk believes these other factors will cancel each other out over long distances. If predictions of global warming are true, he expects the time taken for sound to travel from Heard Island to San Francisco will increase by as much as a quarter of a second a year. Since the sounds will also be detected by other hydrophones located in all the world's oceans, it should be possible to detect regional variations in warming as well.

The first experiments are intended simply to prove that the concept works, and are expected to take ten days. They will cost about $2 million and will involve co-operation with 12 countries, which are putting ships to sea to listen for the sounds. Dr Munk and colleagues at Scripps hope to repeat the experiment annually until the global warming concept is proved or abandoned.

Some oceanographers doubt whether the experiments will prove anything worthwhile, because of the uncertainties introduced by currents and eddies. Marine biologists are worried about the effects of the noises on whales, but Dr Munk thinks their fears are exaggerated.

He believes that the scheme could contribute to the development of a new science of ocean tomography, in which sound signals would be used to analyse the ocean in the same way as x-rays are used in whole-body scanning. This also helps to explain the interest of the US navy, which has contributed part of the cost of the experiment and provided the sound sources.

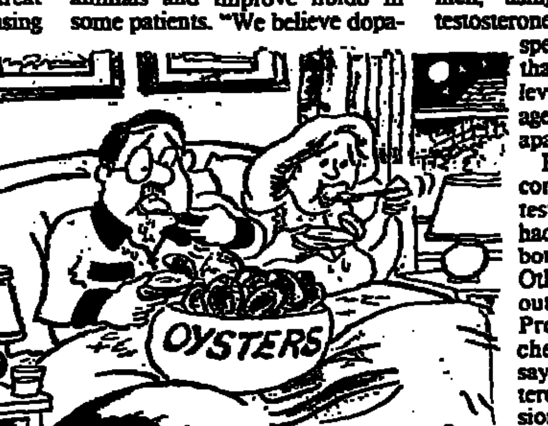
Dr Munk believes it would take 100 years to prove the reality of global warming by measurements of the air. Accurate air temperatures exist for the past century, but they have not eliminated arguments. If the ocean sound experiment can provide clear evidence in less than a decade, it will be worthwhile, he says.

If rhino horn does not work, try the love drug

Chemists are working on a pill to combat marriage breakdowns

New drugs to treat loss of sexual desire could be available in a few years, researchers believe. Over the centuries, many supposed remedies, including powdered rhinoceros horn, ginseng, Spanish fly and strychnine have had their day.

Most "aphrodisiacs" can be dismissed as quackery, but the conditions they are meant to treat are being seen with increasing frequency by specialists. Relate, the marriage guidance charity, says dwindling interest in sex is emerging as a leading cause of marital breakdown, especially among over-forties. The reasons may be psychological or physical, or both, but in a growing number of cases, drug treatment is offered when other therapies fail. Experts dispute the value of existing drugs but agree on the need for new and better versions. The trend now is towards products that influence the brain rather than the body.



Dr Alan Riley, a sex therapist and editor of the *British Journal of Sexual Medicine*, says: "We should have available in about six years drugs to stimulate brain chemicals that affect sexual desire. These should not be seen simply as aphrodisiacs, but as a clinical answer to serious and distressing difficulties."

Researchers are examining dopamine, a brain chemical that blocks the secretion of the hormone prolactin. Abnormally high blood levels of prolactin are linked with male impotence, menstrual disorders and infertility in both sexes. Dopamine deficiency causes Parkinson's disease. Dopamine-based drugs to treat Parkinsonism have shown an unexpected ability to increase virility in animals and improve libido in some patients. "We believe dopamine can treat loss of sexual appetite," says Dr John Bancroft, clinical consultant at the Medical Research Council's reproductive biology unit in Edinburgh.

Professor Merton Sandler, of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, says: "Almost all existing drug treatments for sexual difficulties are unsatisfactory. We do need progress in this field and there are some tantalising prospects, including dopamine." Present treatments centre on the use of hormones to overcome flagging drive. Many women have found that oestrogen replacement therapy, prescribed to relieve menopausal symptoms and protect against osteoporosis, the brittle bone disorder, also rekindles their sexuality. A similar approach for men, using the sex hormone testosterone, is advocated by some specialists on the basis that natural testosterone levels decline in middle-aged men, causing sexual apathy, if not impotence.

Dr Riley told a Relate conference last week that testosterone treatment had been successful in both men and women. Other specialists point out potential hazards. Professor Sandler, a chemical pathologist, says: "We know testosterone can cause aggression, and may increase sexual drive without improving performance. I think it is dangerous." Dr Riley, however, believes a new generation of drugs will take over.

"Compounds that influence the parts of the brain that affect sexual drive may be the answer," he says. "They will have to be strictly controlled. They will not be a panacea for sexual difficulties, many of which are better treated by counselling or psychotherapy, but they will come."

THOMSON PRENTICE

Listen to the light fantastic

A SMALL Cornish company is claiming a world first with a stereo sound system that uses optical fibres to replace traditional copper loudspeaker cables.

Much of the noise that mars the sound from hi-fi equipment comes from the simplest parts of the system, the wires that connect the amplifiers to the loudspeakers.

True audio buffs will spend up to £50 for a metre of special hi-fi speaker wire that only partly solves the problem. Audio designers regard the use of optical fibres, which are immune from electrical interference, as the next stage.

Laser light carries a signal along an optical fibre, and therefore cannot be interfered with by stray electrical fields from nearby power cables, a vacuum cleaner or television set. The wires can also be slimmer than the heavily shielded electrical cables used in top-quality hi-fi systems.

The new system consists of a pre-amplifier, which converts the electrical signal from a compact disc or tape into light. The light is sent by plastic optical fibres to a unit in each loudspeaker, which converts the signal back to electrical form.

Stuart Heath, the managing director of the developer, Fibre Data, of Redruth, says the speakers are driven by amplifiers built into the speaker boxes. They eliminate losses and noise caused by long wires from an amplifier mounted in a central box. The process of converting the signal to light and back again, although complex, is, he adds, less susceptible to noise than simple wiring. "There is no point in introducing a fibre optic link unless you can do it without degrading the signal," he says.

The system is operated by a hand-held remote control. The control signals, including volume and tone, are transmitted by optical fibre in digital form, alongside the analogue sound signal.

Because all the control is done electronically, all mechanical switches are eliminated and sound quality is improved. The speakers themselves are also claimed to be innovative, having a bass unit that compresses five metres of tubing into a speaker box about a metre high and producing about 70 watts a channel.

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Ian McKellen reveals his professorial plans for Oxford, and is reviewed in Hamburg (below, right) as the National Theatre starts a world tour

More than a stage coach

Ian McKellen has always been a reluctant conformist: the head boy at Bolton School who spent his spare time playing Shakespeare rather than rugby; a founder member of the collective Actors' Company who finally succumbed to the Royal Shakespeare Company because "I was fed up with playing the small parts"; and a committed campaigner for gay rights.

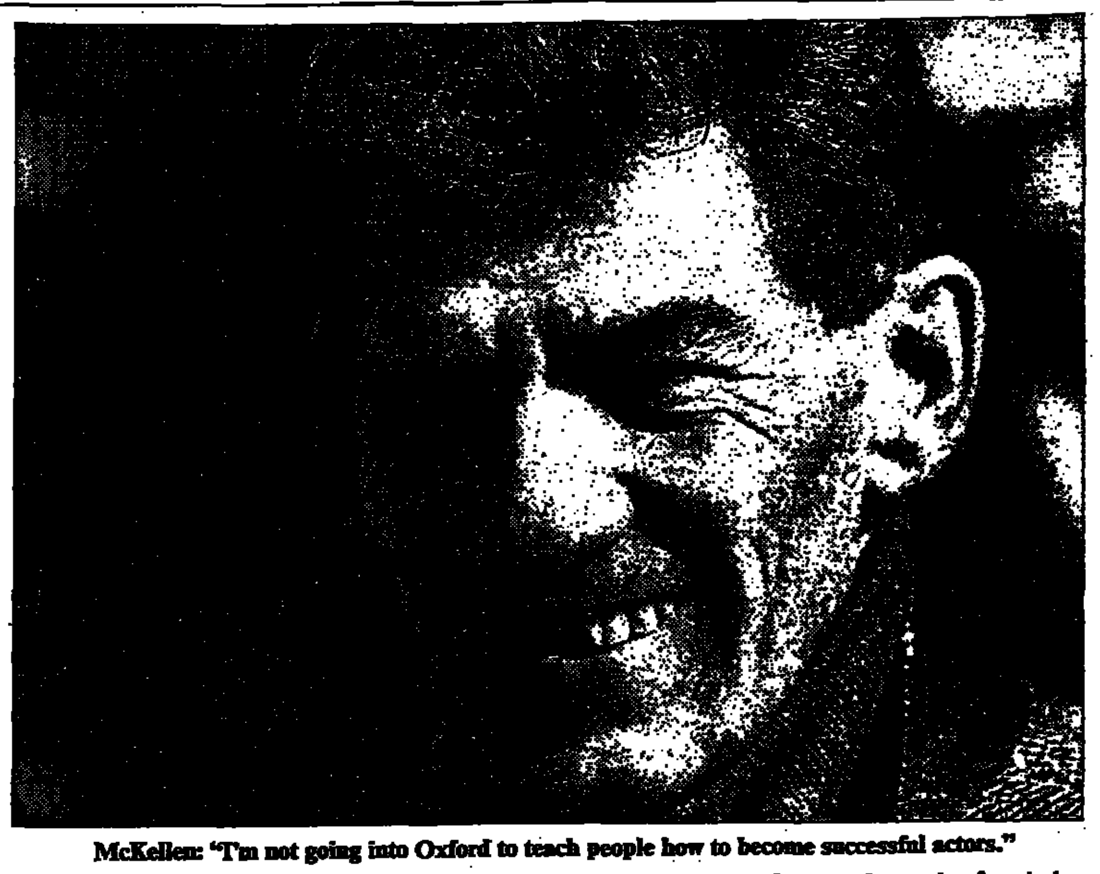
But the McKellen pendulum took a firm swing towards the Establishment last month when, after weeks of rumours, he was finally announced as the second Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at St Catherine's College, Oxford, the successor to Stephen Sondheim. The irony is not lost on him. "It amuses me rather than anything that this gay man, who seems to irritate the Establishment no end because he goes on marches and makes speeches and has campaigned against VAT on theatre tickets and is constantly challenging the government to have a proper attitude towards the arts, should suddenly be called Professor McKellen."

But then, as professorships go, this one is highly unconventional, and McKellen is perfectly cast in the part. The £1.7 million donation for the Chair was provided by Cameron Mackintosh, producer of such West End successes as *Miss Saigon* and *Les Misèrables*, with two stipulations: that it should teach live, contemporary theatre ("I wasn't interested in endowing Euripides," Mackintosh says) and that its holder should be a working theatrical practitioner.

McKellen was approached on behalf of Oxford University by Mackintosh, by David Aukin, Channel 4 head of drama, and Melvyn Bragg. He accepted the Chair on the understanding that his full-time work as actor and associate director at the National Theatre would continue throughout his professorial tenure.

"I said to them that if I'd been on their committee, I think I might have approached me as well. They knew I had interests beyond just getting up and acting and I suppose the fact that I'd been to university (he was a Cambridge contemporary of Derek Jacobi and Trevor Nunn) meant that I'd understand the world I'd be entering." His comparative youthfulness (at 51) and his energetic political campaigning make him a credible undergraduate icon; sterner donnish elements will be placated by his unquestionable standing as a classical actor. "Just as the typical National Theatre programme will quote the views of academics, those same academics will refer to live productions. My career has entirely followed that tradition, a mixture of body and mind. Whether any of that fits me to set up a teaching course remains to be seen."

Assessments of Stephen Sondheim's period of professorship vary. For Mackintosh, it was "hugely successful". But students, it seems, were unimpressed. "I didn't think the meetings I went to were very good." Jemma Heath, the university student drama officer says. "They were packed out with friends of the speakers with only about ten students there. The idea was good, but it should have been less intimidating. It could be viewed as a great con, a nice piece of publicity for whoever takes it on. Students didn't get a look in."



McKellen: "I'm not going into Oxford to teach people how to become successful actors."

Nor did they into Sondheim's musical masterclasses, with the surprising result that this Oxford professor taught no present members of Oxford University. "Stephen and I listened to a huge number of tapes," Mackintosh insists, "and the stuff from students was crap. They were amateurs, and you can't teach amateurs to become professionals. You either have the talent or not. *It's nothing to do with teaching.*"

Mercifully, McKellen has a more indulgent attitude to amateurs. "I think I'll have a much wider scope than Sondheim. I want to talk about theatre on which everyone will have a view, as audience as much as practitioners. I'm not going into Oxford to teach a lot of people how to become successful actors." Details are not yet finalised, but he intends to give an inaugural lecture in January, and to organise a series of open seminars as well as specialist classes in acting, directing and technical production.

"It seemed to me that the invitation was: 'Would you like to come and live in Oxford for a year and be a part of Oxford?' Well, I can't do that because I've got another job. But I can try and be there a lot, and see undergraduates acting, and talk to people any time of the day or night."

He has a history of taking on extra burdens at the last minute — the London benefit performances of *Acting Shakespeare*, his one-man compendium of the Bard's greatest hits, were arranged after an exhausting American tour in order to salvage the foundering London Lighthouse Aids hospice. His stamina was clear from our interview, which he gave *uncomplainingly at 12.30am after* a four-hour performance in the title role of *Richard III*. But is even this workaholic biting off more than he can chew?

"You'll just have to trust my optimism that it's going to be OK. If at the end of the year people are dissatisfied, then maybe the policy of asking someone who is in the thick of working in the theatre world should be changed. I'll initiate conversations, throw out my own experience and have people challenge and discuss it. That's the way in which I hope to learn."

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

World at their feet

The evening before the National Theatre opened at the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg — at the start of the European leg of its world tour of *King Lear* and *Richard III* — the company had an opportunity to witness the brutal candour of German theatre audiences. They went to the opening night of Pirandello's *Henry IV*, directed by the Argentinian Augusto Fernandes, which was greeted with loud booing and catcalls. As Fernandes appeared on stage and drew forth a vehement roar of disapproval, Ian McKellen leaned across to Brian Cox and whispered, "No individual curtain-calls tomorrow, I think".

McKellen, who is the producer of both plays as well as playing the title role in *Richard III* and Kent in *King Lear*, need not have worried. When Cox took a bow after four hours on stage as Lear the following evening, it was to wildly enthusiastic, lengthy applause. Deborah Warner's stark, lucid production, played on an almost bare stage, was universally and unequivocally praised by the critics too; the local *Hamburger Abendblatt* described it as "the theatrical experience of a lifetime". No praise was too high for the actors: the critic from *Die Welt* reported that he enjoyed "listening for four hours to the music of Elizabethan English, so beautifully spoken".

Besides Cox's extraordinarily energetic Lear, first seen clattering down the middle of the stage in a wheelchair wearing a party hat and blowing a whistle, David Bradley's music-hall Fool and Susan Engel's Goneril came in for particularly wide praise. There was some disagreement, however, about the model for Engel's characterisation. *Die Welt* suggested that Goneril was based on Mrs Thatcher, while the *Abendblatt* curiously described it as "an imposing mixture of Laurence Olivier and Greta Garbo".

McKellen's Richard is an imposing mixture of Sir Oswald Mosley and every successful dictator the world has known. On the face of it, Richard Eyre's production is set in an England of the 1930s in which Mosley rises to power, but Eyre himself sees Richard III as an archetypal tyrant; he draws heavily on his observations of repression in Romania. The German critics accepted the parallels with their own relatively recent history and appeared to appreciate Eyre's interpretation.

Once again, the actors received lavish praise. The mass-circulation *Bild* said McKellen's performance set a standard for Germany as well as Britain. Indeed, *Bild* felt that the German theatre had much to learn from the visit of the National Theatre. Here, the paper said, was an example of a poorly funded theatre in which the acting came "from the stomach", full of passion and theatricality and in which the spoken word took precedence over elaborate staging. *Bild* also took a swipe at Michael Bogdanov, the artistic director of the Deutsches Schauspielhaus. Given that Bogdanov came from this parsimonious English theatrical tradition, *Bild* felt that there was no excuse for him overspending on his £9 million budget for the theatre.

After Hamburg, the National Theatre went to Milan, beginning the next stage of a tour that will take the company all over western Europe and as far afield as Cairo and Bucharest, and lasting well into next year.

Touring is exhausting for actors, and before *King Lear* opened in Hamburg, Cox said that he was so tired of making sacrifices for the theatre that he was considering giving up the stage. However, as he accepted the thunderous applause at the Deutsches Schauspielhaus later that evening, he looked as if he might be persuaded to stay a while longer.

DENIS STAUNTON

OPERA

Japan pays credit to the Welsh

Japanese hit: the Welsh National Opera production of *Falstaff*

Mel Cooper reports on Tokyo's reaction to the latest British cultural import

Capping its contribution to Japan's UK90 festival, the Tokyo Bunkamura (celebrating its first anniversary as a cultural centre) presented Welsh National Opera in its 2,150-seat Orchard Hall. Last Thursday, Tokyo saw the first of three performances of Strauss's *Salome* in the much-debated André Engel production; WNO also gave three performances of *Falstaff* in the now-famous Peter Stein staging: a production of Verdi's final comic masterpiece that has justifiably become something of a company calling card. It was certainly an auspicious time for the Welsh to visit Tokyo, with the world's cameras focussed on the imperial coronation, and a host of visiting dignitaries (including the Prince and Princess of Wales) in the city.

Audience reaction suggests the Japanese appreciated *Salome*, especially the gripping portrayal of the lust-crazed child-princess by Catherine Malfitano in her long-delayed WNO debut (Equity prevented her from being WNO's Gilda in 1976). They seemed also to fall in love with *Falstaff*. In the Verdi everything worked superbly — the ensemble and stage movement were smooth; the theatrical illusion of an entire community in spontaneous action was convincing; and the musical performance (directed by Richard Armstrong) was at the highest level in the final scene, when the chorus came into its own. At the end of *Falstaff*'s first night, the audience was, for Japan, especially demonstrative: a further confirmation of the value of these East-West exchanges and of Japan's continuing, and seemingly insatiable, appetite for Western classical music.

That value can be measured financially. It is costing the Tokyo Bunkamura 600 million yen (approximately £2.4 million) to receive these six performances. To put that figure in perspective, consider that it is equivalent to six months' worth of Arts Council grant to WNO. Tokyo is a hard-nosed financial centre: what does the city hope to gain from this conspicuous cultural expenditure? Not profits, certainly. The hall, completely filled, would generate only £800,000 from box-office takings.

Indeed, the question can be widened: why have the Japanese built this mini-Lincoln Center next to the main Tokyo department store — with two theatres, cinemas, art galleries, a theatre library, a bookstore and restaurant? The answer is probably that they perceive the Bunkamura (Arts City) as a step in a long-term plan: it enhances the city's cultural image, attracts customers into the area of town that is being developed, and it generates its own profits, too.

Even with ticket prices ranging from £40 to £110 for WNO, the hall was, amazingly, about 80 per cent full each night. The next opera coming to the Orchard Hall is *Porgy and Bess*, in the Houston Grand Opera production. That follows in a notable procession of Western performers playing Tokyo. Sherrill Milnes, Thomas Allen, Katia Ricciarelli and Giuseppe Sinopoli were all performing in Japan over one weekend. Martha Graham, the Scottish Ballet, the National Theatre of Great Britain, Michael Clark and Christa Ludwig have also recently been in Japan.

UK90 has given a British bias and profile to the arts in Japan this year — the treasures of the British Museum are also on their way here. But arts and artists from France, Brazil, Austria and the United States are here, too. In Japan, foreign culture is being accorded unprecedented attention, respect and, above all, open-minded curiosity.

The resounding success of *Falstaff* can, in part, be put down to a superb cast: Suzanne Murphy's dominant Alice was gutsy, poised and vocally gleaming; Wendy Vercoe was an energetic Meg; Cynthia Buchan was an earthy, baritonal Mistress Quickly. The women, as always in this production, nearly stole the show; but Barry Morra's moving Ford (the jealousy aria was unforgettably strong) and Peter Branden's angry Dr Caius mustered most attention. Paul Clarke was a manly Fenton, while Donald Maxwell simply became Falstaff, providing the focus vocally and dramatically at the centre of the production.

DESIGN

Pure in function and form

Joseph Connolly assesses the latest exhibition of Thonet furniture at the Design Museum

Assessed in terms of mass produced, elegant, durable and affordable furniture, the achievement of Michael Thonet and his sons during the 19th and 20th centuries may hardly be exaggerated. Yet the very ubiquity of the most popular curvilinear bentwood chairs — many still in continuous production after 150 years — contributes to their near invisibility, and the bafflingly low profile of arguably the most important and influential furniture manufacturer of all time.

That this overdue exhibition should be mounted in the Design Museum is fitting, for Thonet's chairs (to which the exhibition is almost exclusively devoted) may clearly be seen *in the cool, white* space as the utter exemplification of the purist's dictum that function should dictate form. The sinuous and sometimes voluptuous curves of wood and tubular metal simply surround the sitter's space — each chair managing to be extremely inviting — while even the more elaborate curlicues on the rocking chairs manage to appear elegant and even restrained, their sheer prettiness belying the truth that they are integral to the structure and stability of the total design.

Michael Thonet was a German cabinet-maker who, in 1841 at the age of 45, took out several patents to protect his innovative work. At this stage, the process took the form of bending stacks of laminated veneers by boiling them in glue, but by the following year Thonet was established in Austria. There he obtained from the emperor the patent for a new and revolutionary process: "to bend even the most brittle type of wood in a chemico-mechanical way into various forms and curves". With the necessary machinery having been designed by Thonet and his five sons, further patents were taken out in England, France and Belgium, and by means of international exhibitions and showrooms, a massive manufacturing operation was underway.

By the turn of the century, the Thonet Company employed more than 6,000 workers and produced 4,000 pieces of furniture every day — one million pieces per year. The annual catalogue (produced multi-lingually) ran to more than 150 pages, illustrating every conceivable application of the process from *children's hoops to bedroom* suites. Furthermore, although a basic bentwood sidechair could be had for the price of a bottle of wine — and they were bought in their thousands by cafés, railway stations and even prisons — the demand for them to furnish fashionable homes never diminished: Thonet had designed and successfully marketed the first (some would say the only) classless furniture.

The star of the show is in some ways the humblest exhibit: placed literally on a pedestal and surrounded by Perspex, stands "Chair 14" — a suitably workmanlike appellation for the classic hoop-backed sidechair, one of millions produced. Despite its familiarity, the spare simplicity of line and the friskiness of the gently splayed legs strike one afresh. "Chair 14" is surrounded by far less famous delights. A beautifully curved tub chair of 1904 by Otto Wagner, its back perforated by perfectly graduated circles, provides a startling contrast to a bright red three-legged armchair made just one year later. A compact rocker of 1890 (see photograph, above) has all the chubby strength of a Josef Hoffman design, and is well set off by the most elegant piece in the exhibition — a wonderfully slender music chair of 1888, its ebony finish and gold filleting strongly recalling Hepplewhite.

The exhibition also shows a good representation of a facet of Thonet that is largely unrecognised: the company's huge involvement in the 1920s and 1930s with the new wave of tubular metal furniture. Marcel Breuer, who had developed his technique at the Bauhaus in 1925, was the first to sell designs to Thonet, and was soon followed by Mies van der Rohe (whose amply curved metal dining chairs owed *much to the early wooden rockers*) and Le Corbusier, who mixed his own tubular metal chairs with 75-year-old bentwood designs in all his interiors. Most of the famous chairs are here, including two versions of Breuer's "Cesca", this steel and whicker chair being the most successful (and the most plagiarised) of the 20th century.

For the 1989 Milan Furniture Fair, the Thonet Company commissioned eight one-off chair designs from contemporary designers; these, alas, are also on view. Among the more ludicrous is a chair shaped like an outsized rocking desk-blotter with a lacrosse net as a backrest, an awful post-Memphis sort of armchair with legs inspired by those of Mrs Thatcher (we are told), and a quartet of aluminium chair frames draped with women's clothing.

These ventures are either intensely amusing, or else a complete waste of time and resources, according to taste. That Thonet should put its name to them is faintly shocking: the company's great classics of the 19th and 20th centuries owe nothing to applied decoration, and these travesties depend upon it wholly. The remaining prototypes are merely derivative of Starck, Mackintosh, Saarinen, Le Corbusier (with touches of Rietveld) and Gimson.

Michael Thonet would not have approved, if only because none of these could be successfully mass-produced and marketed; for Thonet saw himself only as a manufacturer, and not as an artist. In this — as the better part of the exhibition demonstrates — he was mistaken.

● Thonet *is being shown at the Design Museum, Butlers Wharf, London SE1 2YD (071-403 6933), until January 28.*

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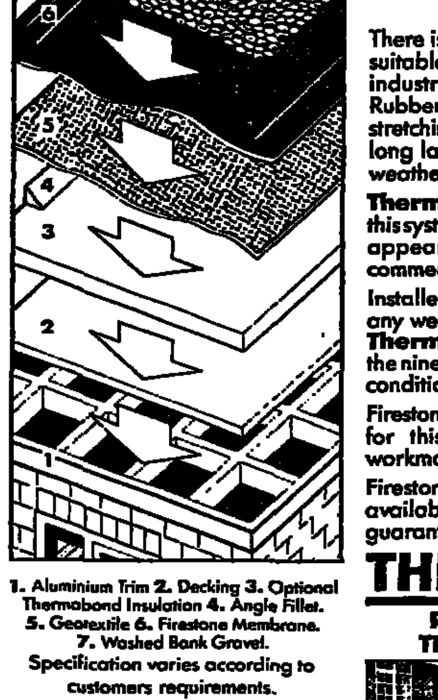

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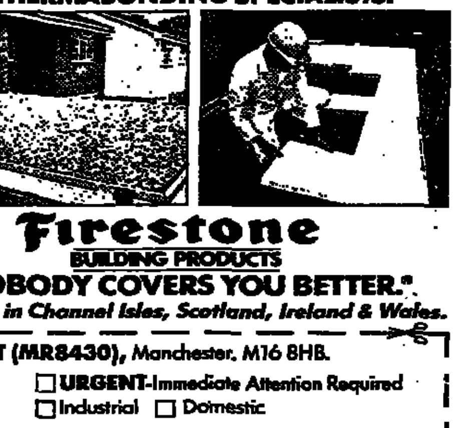

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SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

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O, BRAVE *old* world. This intriguing conceit is as elaborately wrought as the brass filigree on one of the vast steam computers that drive a substitute Victorian age. Science has taken a turn for the hearse, with the murder of the countryside by an Industrial Revolution before its time. This is the bizarre funeral procession of a Brunel come early into his kingdom of calculators and *microchips*. The result is Conan Doyle embracing Asimov, with a kiss on the cheek from Frank Harris for lewd measure. Palaeontologist Ned Mallory is protecting a misplaced box for Lady Ada Byron — daughter of the prime minister — and finds himself embroiled in a Luddite rebellion begun in Texas.

That story-line is as dense as the fog that hangs over London to make it the Great Stink, and one loses way just as easily, missing characters, barging into unexplained new ones. But the atmosphere is all, from its dolly-mop girls to the clackers (machine-minders for the computers), from the early kinema to walk-on roles for John Keats and Disraeli ("a sensational novelist"). It bristles with the invention that its era mothered. In that way — and for all its plot-deficiencies — it works extraordinarily well.

● **Robot Visions**, by Isaac Asimov (*Gollancz, £12.95*). The admission that the positronic brain is just "gobbledegook" makes this a scandalous must for all admirers of the good doctor: rather like Buddha disowning prayer-wheels. The rest constitute metal shavings from the lathe on which he's fashioned his man-machines, with a couple of rather dull essays to fill out. He's still quite proud of his Three Laws of Robotics, though wondering if "I've done anything since to continue to justify my existence". Physician, heal thyself of such mock modesty. You'll do yourself a positronic-brain damage.

● **Hyperion**, by Dan Simmons (*Headline, £13.95*). An epic breath-taker. A pilgrimage set in the 29th century to a planet where the million-year-old Time Tombs are about to open. Tales are told by the pilgrims — flying Chaucers? — but the underpinning story has a tension that never lets our attention wander off.

● **The City, Not Long After**, by Pat Murphy (*Pan, £12.95*). Revelation that's as much hallucination, an account of a commune of folk living on after society's collapse and having to confront a new power: a gun-minded oligarchy. Ms Murphy's sharp social awareness gives an edge to the blur of her imaginings.

● **The Rowan**, by Anne McCaffrey (*Bantam, £12.99*). Whimsy is what Ms McCaffrey can dispense by the barrow-load, but this, sans dragons, works the best I've read: the story of the lonely The Rowan — we must have the definite article, it's an article of faith — a maiden-telepath on Altair. She was rescued from a mudslide, and grew up to love the wild-talented Jeff. The lump in the throat sentiment is too obviously a contrived obstruction.

A new woman's novel approach

Victoria Glendinning on modern relations

There used to be something called a "woman's novel", which was not only written by a woman but read chiefly by women, and it was about the problems and vicissitudes of love, marriage and family life. These weren't romantic trash, but sharply observant, intelligent literary novels such as those written, for example, by sundry distinguished Elizabeths — von Arnim, Bowen, Taylor, Jenkins. The Women's Movement destabilised and democratised the woman's novel. Alison Lurie and Margaret Atwood have sharpened their claws on the stout sofa-legs of its traditions, but they have not destroyed it, nor sought to.

Ann Beattie is American, one of the "thirtysomething" generation and much acclaimed in the United States. *Picturing Will* is her third novel (she has also written short stories), and Margaret Atwood is quoted on the jacket: "A new Beattie is almost like a fresh bulletin from the front." There is, then, a war on. There always was, in the woman's novel. What changes is the balance of power, the casus belli, the terrain.

Picturing Will is about the loves of men and women, but it focuses on a five-year-old child. Will's mother is a photographer, and photography determines the structure of the novel — points of view and perspectives, close-ups and wide-angle shots. Each adult connected with the child Will pictures him, and each other, from his or her own point of view. Even those who love Will most have impure motives, and use him, unknowingly, to further their own emotional needs, though the reader only cottons on to their selfishness when viewing the situation from someone else's angle, later.

Today's woman's novel speaks to men as well, and explores the complex, loose structures that our families now are. Will and his mother Jody live with Mel in Charlottesville, Virginia. Mel is a devoted proxy father; he wants Jody to marry him, and looks after Will while she works. Mel comes to love Will with an intensity that seems pure, but may be something

PICTURING WILL
By Ann Beattie
Cape, £12.99

more peculiar. Will's real father, Wayne, is now married to Corky, and they live in Florida. Wayne is a thoughtless father, a big sweaty slob, whose mind runs on extra-marital sex, and he gets a lot of it.

When the story is being told from the point of view of either Mel or Wayne, their attitudes seem quite reasonable. It's only when you have finished the novel that you realise that no one is really good for Will — certainly not the man who offers Will's mother a show in his gallery, and seduces another small boy in a hotel room, with Will present: this scene is a horrific erotic tour de force, seen entirely through the eyes of innocent, puzzled little Will.

Will would like to tell his mother what happened in the hotel, but she doesn't want to hear about it. The women do not come out of this much better than the men. Will meant everything to his mother when she was newly divorced and lonely; when she becomes successful in her work, she is happy to leave the child-care to her lover. Will's father's second wife Corky longs for a child of her own, and lavishes ostentatious attention on Will, hoping to soften awful Wayne's heart.

Will's mother folded his socks when she packed them for the visit; his father's second wife rolls them into a ball for the return home, like a message of defiance to the other woman. This is the sort of detail — real woman's novel stuff — at which Beattie excels. The narrative is full of documentary snapshots of the clutter of domesticity — of bills, photos, drawings, or the random but telling contents of a bedside chest of drawers, the intimate inventories of private life.

It is not easy to infiltrate the consciousness of a child without sentimentality and falsity, and even harder to transcribe childish thought-processes. But Ann Beattie can do it, as in a brief passage when Will is on his own, in the bath, playing with his toys — just before he looks out of the window and sees something horrible happening to his father. The book ends with Will grown up, a young father himself, with his own set of mental snapshots, and his own idea of himself, of his elders, and of his child. This is a sensitive, astute book, about the way adults shape children's lives, and vice versa. The skills Ann Beattie now has at her command seem more original than what she has to say, but she is nevertheless provoking and pleasurable to read. The woman's novel lives.

MICHAEL WARD

Ann Beattie, taking compelling snapshots of the emotional and general clutter of modern relationships

Cats among the cream

Sabine Durrant

PATRICK GALE's The Cat Sanctuary is a book with claws. It has a soft surface — a story set in sloping Cornish countryside, touching on love, families and forgiveness, delivered in a gentle, straightforward prose — but from time to time it catches you unawares. A wife is standing on the doorstep waving her husband goodbye, when an explosion scatters his car and his body all over the front garden. A jolly Sunday afternoon drag hunt, launched with glasses of sherry and horsy goodwill, ends up in a pile of feline carnage. Scratch the surface of life, suggests Gale, and you draw blood.

The sanctuary of the title is one run for stray cats by a batty old woman with rheumatism and a mysterious past. But it has a wider reference, too: a region of north Cornwall in which all the men either went off to war and came back in a box, or have left for more gainful employment elsewhere. Whatever the reason, Martyrstow is a land of widows and spinsters, where the only man is not as complete as he might be (his mother caught him playing with himself when he was a child, and took literally violent exception to the fact), and two women can live in sin without scandal. It is a place of repose — ideal for recovery from a bereavement, and for reunion between estranged sisters.

The sisters in question are Judith (an independent, insecure writer, who happens to be a lesbian) and hopeless, widowed Deborah, who happens to be a twit. The two, brought together after years apart by Judith's lover, Joanna, are harbouring resentments the size of oil tankers. All in their middle class childhoods, it seems, was not as rosy as it might

THE CAT SANCTUARY

By Patrick Gale
Chatto & Windus, £13.99

GOODBYE WITHOUT LEAVING
By Laurie Colwin
Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95

RUMPOLE A LA CARTE
By John Mortimer
Viking, £13.99

have been. If there is little mystery hanging over Gale's hints about "Daddy's girl", and a rather melodramatic manner to his coverage of episodes of child-beating, there is at least some caustic comedy in the women's attempts to sort it all out. The acuteness in the sniping comments, awkward meetings on the stairs, and fur-flying explosions mean their final reunion is actually a bit of a disappointment.

Geraldine Coleshares, the heroine of Laurie Colwin's delightful Goodbye Without Leaving, lives her life on the verge of feeling let down. There is a brief period, after postgraduate studies, when she travels the US as the only white back-up singer with Vernon and Ruby Shakely and the Shakettes, and feels fulfilled. It is a time spent reading magazines and anointing nails in the back of a bus, being picked up after shows, dancing to the beat till she loses all sense of self. When it's over, she is stricken by self- doubt, and spends most of her days worrying about her future or the present, or feeling that part of herself has been left behind.

For all her inwardness, though, Gerry is an engaging character, casting an ironic light on Johnny Miller, her lawyer/pop-picking husband. There is the whole menagerie of uptight suburbia she finds herself conniving with on the dinner party circuit. There is a quirky brightness to the prose, too — speeding over the years, delving into disparate incidents, jumping across conversations — that belies its often downbeat subject (the pressure of hope and responsibility, the agonies of doubt and duty). It is the sort of fiction that reads like autobiography; or autobiography that reads like fiction.

There has always seemed to be a good deal of autobiography in John Mortimer's Rumpole books. It is the sense that things have been experienced at first hand which largely lends the series its easy familiarity. Whether Mortimer himself, in his time as a barrister, ever had to defend the proprietor of a rodent-infested restaurant, or found himself propositioned by "the worst driver who ever skidded her gleaming white Volkswagen off the Uxbridge road" (episodes that tax his fictional barrister in this latest collection of short stories) is probably an issue best thrown out of court. Whatever, regular followers will recognise immediately the controlled proximity of author to subject.

But then, by now the Rumpole tone is deep inside the realm of the formulaic. Here it is again — the world-weary loucheness of Jeffrey Bernard (late nights on the whisky, and cynical deference to "she who must be obeyed") tempered by a tweedy jocularity more obviously reminiscent of P. G. Wodehouse. Probably club members only.

Darker sides of Jane

HISTORICALS

Philippa Toomey

JANE FAIRFAX
By Joan Aiken
Gollancz, £12.95

HERE'S a treat for the reader — described as "a novel to complement *Emma*", this is Joan Aiken's view of Jane Fairfax, following her equally attractive *Mansfield Revisited*.

Jane Fairfax, left an orphan at a very early age, went as we all know to live with her grandmother and her aunt Hetty. She is dressed entirely in cast-offs from the Woodhouse children — cut down from the older Isabella, wearing particularly unbecoming colours suitable to Emma, who is her own age. Mrs Woodhouse, a charming, fragile figure, hopes that Emma and Jane will play together and be best friends, but it is a hopeless task. Even at six, Emma's character was fully formed; but Jane shares her music lessons, and soon outstrips her.

Causes of resentment are there, and Emma's settled dislike of Jane is reinforced when Mrs Woodhouse leaves her £100 in her will. The death of a young woman in childbirth was all too common in those days, and Mr Woodhouse is not seen as the delightfully funny valetudinarian, but a selfish, weak man. Jane is virtually adopted by Colonel Campbell (her late father's commanding officer) and his wife, and finds a sister in Rachel, the nervous daughter of the house. In the Austen tradition of odious snobs is Mrs Fitzroy, the elegant, impoverished mother of Mrs Campbell, sweetly venomous to Jane. Her cry "What kind of name is that?" is applied to all but the aristocracy.

Jane grows up pretty and elegant, but knows that a dreary fate awaits her as a governess — even a lady's maid would be more fun, and probably be paid more, she thinks. But she gets three proposals of marriage during a visit to Weymouth: one she scorns, one she rejects for Rachel's sake, and one she accepts — clandestinely, as we all know.

Jane and Frank Churchill are in a similar plight — both taken out of their social backgrounds to something rather more grand, and both dependent on others for their livelihood and ultimate happiness. The darker side of Regency life is reflected in a way that Miss Austen ignored — another pen has filled in the shadows. Emma is a minor character — something that would have annoyed that self-important young woman very much indeed. Great fun.

● **The Lost Chronicle of Edward de Vere**, by Andrew Field (*Viking, £13.99*). The seventeenth Earl of Oxford, Lord Great Chamberlain, dying of the plague, reveals to the world that he is the poet and the playwright known to all as William Shakespeare. During his busy life in the world (courtier, traveller) he claims to have found time (with the assistance of a circle of writers) to write all the plays and the sonnets. An amusing book, but such a cross-grained, cantankerous fellow could never have created the human comedy (let alone the tragedy). A delusion caused by the plague, perhaps?

● **Princes among their Peoples**, by Jane Ball (*Simon & Schuster, £13.95*). Benedict is a clever little boy, with a talent for figures. But his father sells him to a cruel goldsmith in York, from which fate he is rescued by Josce, a rich Jew. Twelfth-century York turned against the Jews, and his kind master died — but his daughter Francesca was saved. A gradual rise through the social system of poor knights in tumbledown manor houses, with danger from Welsh marauders, and the bigger struggle between Richard and his brother John as a background.

● **The Unsuitable Miss Pelham**, by June Drummond (*Gollancz, £13.95*). Admirers of the late, great Georgette Heyer will recognise the genre — a Regency romance, and quite an ingenious one. Diplomat and earl, Alexander Frome, is rich and a very eligible bachelor. Driving with his brother Nick in the country, he witnesses an attempted murder. He finds that the young man with the pistol is in fact a young woman, the independent and attractive Lucilla Pelham, grand-daughter of Sir Sholto Curle. Two love stories, a murder story, the last three people in a tontine, a family feud, and a happy ending are neatly entwined.

● **Tamgar**, by Flora Fraser (*Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £13*). The poet Pindar of Thebes is delighted that Hieron, tyrant of Syracuse, has chosen him to compose an ode celebrating a victory at Olympia. But Syracuse itself is in danger from the dispossessed Sikels, its corn burned, its citizens massacred. Unfortunately, while the details are accurate, the descriptions of Syracuse lack any kind of life, and the dialogue is flat and unconvincing. Someone should have removed the "complicitous smiles", which appear too often on a number of faces.

Chat-show screams

HORROR

Anne Billson

BLACK COCKTAIL
By Jonathan Carroll
Legend, £8.99, paperback, £4.50

LEGEND has certainly launched its novella imprint with the big guns. Everything Carroll writes is required reading for anyone remotely interested in horror and fantasy fiction; and this is no exception, even if he gives the impression of having suddenly truncated a half-written, full-length novel to fit the format. Los Angeles radio chat-show host Ingram York (brother of a character from one of the author's previous books) finds that there is more to his new friend Michael than meets the eye. As always, Carroll blends keen psychological insight with a sinister slant on modern life.

● **Reborn**, by F. Paul Wilson (*New English Library, £13.95*). Wilson's big hit was *The Keep* — evil Nazis versus even more evil vampire — and this purports to be a sequel, though there are only a few marginal points of reference to the original book, and the open ending and 1968 setting suggest that a third part is in the offing. Basically, the incredibly ancient and evil being is seeking to be reborn. Characters include a man with hairy palms and no soul, his wife, and a hysterical coven of Catholic vigilantes who are aiming to stomp out the Antichrist before he can put in an appearance. This is nowhere near as compelling and original as *The Keep*, but interesting in that the pawns of evil are more sympathetically drawn than the would-be agents of righteousness.

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Poisonous gloss of the élite

THEATRE

The Rehearsal
Garrick

WHEN Anouilh's *pièce brillante* hit London 30 years ago – a time at which many a critical head was blindly stuck in the kitchen sink – it was widely dismissed as clever, superficial, glossy. Ian McDiarmid's excellent revival should belatedly end the sneers. This is an angry if elegant play, and the human objects of its ire are with us still: smiling, shrugging and complaining about being bored. It is an attack on superficiality; an analysis of gloss that demonstrates how poisonous the stuff can be.

Count, Countess and friends are entertaining themselves by rehearsing Marivaux's *Double Inconstancy*, in which a prince woos and weds a shepherdess. Life promptly decides to play a few variations on art. Something stirs inside the Count as he makes his stilted addresses to the nursemaid performing the rustic heroine; and it is, it seems, more than the casual lust that his wife and his mistress have come to tolerate. This intrusive bumpkin has touched some long-forgotten yearning, perhaps even a capacity for love, in the sophisticated nob. That is an unforgivable sin, and it is duly punished.

Now, I for one began by feeling there was something absurdly romantic at the play's heart. It seemed unlikely that Jonathan Hyde's fastidious Count would fall quite so seriously for Julia Ormond's earnest, mulish Lucile. Again, her simple virtue seemed more priggish and her absolute devotion less credible than Anouilh, always a sucker for innocent young women, was able to recognise. Yet by the end author and production had bounced me, not just into suspending disbelief, but into thinking my objections evidence of the very cynicism they were deploring.

Others will surely feel the same way after the scene in which the Count's best friend, egged on by the Countess, invades Lucile's bedroom and fibs, whines, rages and emotionally politics his way under her skin. This is bravura acting by Jonathan Kent, full of destructiveness and self-disgust, outpowering anything in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*; but it is perfectly logical, given the intense envy that Anouilh has already shown being provoked by warm, honest feeling in these cold, sly toffs.

He created them aristocrats, but nowadays they would be more likely to belong to some smug, self-regarding subdivision of the meritocracy. Nicola Pagett's Countess is brasher than so polished a woman should be: but, helped by Christine Kavanagh as the Count's brittle mistress, she proves an expert proponent of her household's philosophy. Virtue is to be amusing; sin is to be dull; to hell with those who cannot be stylishly trivial. It is a message echoing from enough metropolitan dining-tables today.

But don't be alarmed. The effect is not puritanical, not moralising. McDiarmid has transferred humour to the Garrick, along with the classy Jasper Conran costumes so admired in his original production at the Almeida. Anouilh's rediscovery seems to me overdue. Were its success to continue, it would mainly be because of his plays' dark, disconcerting fun.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Stylish triviality: Nicola Pagett as the Countess in *The Rehearsal*

THEATRE

Rough Crossing
King's Head

TOM Stoppard's first go at adapting this morsel of pre-war froth by Ferenc Molnar, the Hungarian playwright, was given a lavish production at the National in 1984. By all accounts his cascading puns and invention over-egged the soufflé, but the real trouble is more likely to have been too much production chasing too little substance.

The story is absurdly, and of course deliberately, slender. A couple of musical comedy writers (Roland Curram and Robert Austin) are crossing the Atlantic and, by the time they reach New York, hope to have sorted out the plot of their new show. This presents them with two problems. First, whenever the steward (Kevin Moore) appears with drinks they have ordered, he contrives to misunderstand the conversation – as in the nautical phrase for going downstairs, "down the hatch" – and swallows the drink himself. Question No 1: Will the cognac ever go down the right throat? Question No 2: Will they ever sort out their show?

Their composer (Dominic Hawksley) has overheard the leading girl (Anita Dobson), whom he loves, canoodling with his rival (Ronald Allen), the leading man. Suicide beckons. The Atlantic lies all around.

Stoppard has now revised his first attempt into a very pleasing way to pass a couple of hours. He has cut out the chorus, which must have made the second half ridiculously top-heavy. The story cannot bear the impedimenta of a full-blown showbiz number and, because Martin Connor's production is shorn of such pretentions, it works. The production is not exactly "poor theatre", as our friends in the East say, but it makes do with a little – an art-deco door and porthole, a lifebelt and a wall studded with rivets.

I would not think that much of the original Molnar survives in this version. No matter, or not much matter. Stoppard's jokes, particularly the running gags, are likeable even if not out of his top drawer. There is amusing acting from the team of six, particularly from Moore's keen unrepentant steward and Curram's suave wordsmith, whose typing errors produce, among other gems, Dodo and Aeneas.

JEREMY KINGSTON

THEATRE

Gargantua and Pantagruel
Warehouse, Croydon

THE Lords of Misrule are a company of two performers whose repertory includes Elizabethan drama, including Shakespeare, and such titanic undertakings as an adaptation of *Gulliver's Travels*. Now they have gone even further (in more than one sense) with Rabelais's roistering hymn to healthy appetites and hefty attributes.

This is not a show for children or the faint-hearted. Ideally it needs a beery, smoky, tavernful of rollicking spectators, something Croydon was deficient in providing on a wet Tuesday night. Nothing daunted, David Ford strapped on a huge blue member (not a Tory MP) as the perpetually priapic Gargantua, and led us in search of the holy bottle, a more practical goal than the Grail.

Ford and Alan Leigh use all the tricks available, even cinematic mannerisms – they can mime the great sexual cliché of a train going into a tunnel, or the shimmering dissolve that heralds a flashback. A couple of chairs and a desk provide the furniture, with most of the props stored in the drawers: a lettuce, nun's headgear, a witch's nose, a bald wig; in addition, the cardboard box, carrier bag and copy of the *Guardian* that signify destitution. The actors neatly convey suckling babies, opening letters, riffling through a card index and the atomic mushroom cloud that results from Pantagruel's fart.

Breaking wind, urinating and boozing occupy much of the 100 or so minutes' subject matter, less obviously than might be feared from the jokey programme that makes clear the sponsorship by a chain of pubs with a series of firkin jokes.

The performance is unfailingly ingenious, and the writing is sometimes evocative. Those coloured icebergs, the frozen words of Rabelais's original, are here invisible but identified as snatches of cliché; there are the floppy feet that become ears for Hearsay, and the white bag sewn with red lips over the head of those obligingly learning to be witnesses. By the end, it is all something of a jumble. But even the dozen-strong audience had relaxed sufficiently to offer the laughter which the evening cries out for from the start.

MARTIN HOYLE

TELEVISION

Medics/Die Kinder
ITV/BBC 2

TWO new drama series opened last night, both demonstrating the state of the art. The art of *Die Kinder* (BBC 2) is that of *Centrepoint* and *Edge of Darkness*: a grainy post-modernist Euro-thriller set against recent political upheavals at home and abroad. The art of Granada's *Medics* is by contrast a throwback to that of Hollywood *circa* 1955, when Ben Casey and Dr Kildare were reckoned to represent the heights of American medical and emotional achievement.

Set in a Manchester hospital, where the plot of episode one of *Medics* seemed to have been not so much created as inadequately recalled from *Fatal Attraction*, this dramatic invitation to abandon the National Health Service to a first-year acting class was strong on lines like "There is nothing between us" and "It's all a bit tacky", which was the understatement of the night. But the writers of *Medics* are always strong on understatement: "Are you alright?" enquired a mother solicitously of a daughter who had just found her doctor-lover bloodily dismembered in her bed by a previous girlfriend.

Beyond the suggestions that there is more blood-letting among the doctors than the patients, it is difficult to assess precisely what *Medics* is doing, apart from establishing the case for an immediate return to vintage highlights from *Emergency Ward 10*. According to Granada, it is designed "to confront controversial medical issues" such as presumably what is the correct emotional response and clothing for a student nurse faced with an unexpected corpse in the wrong part of the hospital, and some of the worst dialogue since the creation of *Prisoner: Cell Block H*.

The chances of a referral to the General Medical Council being remote, the best hope here might be to have the rest of the series postponed for drastic recasting and rewriting. Episode one was in fact held over for a month, though I doubt we shall be so lucky with episode two. It would be an act of medical charity not to name any of those involved, in case they ever plan to operate again in some other field of dramatic endeavour. Meanwhile *Medics* has already achieved the curious distinction of making the barely adequate *Casualty* look like a classic of its bedpan genre.

With *Die Kinder* we are mercifully back in the land of the living. A divorced mother of two small children finds them suddenly kidnapped by their father, who has returned to the Germany of his youth and a decidedly sinister past. Paula Milne's taut script has two quite distinct themes – marital kidnap, and the legacy of the Baader-Meinhof gangs. In its opening hour, however, *Die Kinder* did little more than establish two of its central characters. Miranda Richardson plays the distraught mother, ice-cold manner hiding a desperation to get the kids of the title back to England, while Frederic Forrest is the German private eye she hires reluctantly to solve the mysteries of her ex-husband.

Forrest's seedy 1940s charm and Richardson's feminist determination should make for a good odd-couple match; and still to come is the story of how the German rebels of the Sixties were conditioned by their Nazi-conforming parents, a subtext already outlined alongside that of Germany's emergent Green party.

All in all, this is a thriller of considerable intelligence and complexity for those who do not expect the usual local mix of snobbery with violence.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country.

NEW RELEASES

◆ FLATLINERS (15): Kiefer Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between death and life. An unpleasant folly with ghoulish atmosphere lacking sympathetic characters. Director Joel Schumacher.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644) Swiss Cottage (0426 914 098) West End (071-930 5252) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THE MAD MONKEY (18): Strange doings in Paris with Jeff Goldblum as an American screenwriter and Miranda Richardson as his crippled agent. Ponderous psychological thriller pricked by the occasional unsettling surprise. Director Fernando Trueba.
Cannons: Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Panton Street (071-930 0631).

A MAN ESCAPED (U): Heartening revival of Robert Bresson's austere, compelling film – first released in 1957 – based on the experiences of a French Resistance worker imprisoned by the Gestapo.
Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ MY BLUE HEAVEN (PG): Steve Martin as an incorrigible criminal placed under the wing of a stiff-necked FBI agent (Rick Moranis). Overstretched comedy which never quite finds enough funny things for its talented cast to do. Director Herbert Ross.
Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

CURRENT

◆ AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15): Jane Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame.
Metro (071-437 0757) Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ BAD INFLUENCE (18): Sleek and suspenseful psychological thriller charting the fortunes of a young professional (James Spader) bedevilled by a psychopath (Rob Lowe). Director Curtis Hanson.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631).

◆ BETSY'S WEDDING (15): Alan Alda's uneven but engaging comedy about pre-marriage turmoil.
Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzanine (071-930 6111) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ BIRD ON A WIRE (12): Empty-headed chase movie, with only Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn's star power to pull us through.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

BULLSEYE! (15): Bullseye is exactly what director Michael Winner does not hit in this laborious comedy with Michael Caine and Roger Moore as a couple of conmen.
Odeon Marble Arch (071-723 2011) Warner (071-439 0791).

◆ CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS (15): Woody Allen's engrossing portrait of life's sorrows and immoralities.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631) Odeon Kensington (071-602 6644/5).

◆ DAYS OF THUNDER (12): Stock-car racing drama from the team behind *Top Gun*, heavy on racetrack action and Tom Cruise's cocky grin, weak on originality.
Plaza (071-497 9999).

◆ DIE HARD 2 – DIE HARDER (15): Action-packed but relentlessly silly sequel to an already absurd original.
Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

◆ THE FRESHMAN (PG): Quirky uneven spoof of *The Godfather* with Marlon Brando as the mobster who hires a New York film student (Matthew Broderick) as a delivery-boy. Writer-director Andrew Bergman.
Odeon Leicester Square (071-930 6111).

◆ GHOST (12): Jerry Zucker's supernatural thriller. Bizarre, incoherent, but absorbing while it lasts.
Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772) Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Empire (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ GOODFELLAS (18): Martin Scorsese's gangster epic following a New York hoodlum's rise and fall. Ray Liotta is easily outgunned by the supporting players, Joe Pesci, and Robert De Niro.
Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ THE HANDMAID'S TALE (18): Margaret Atwood's novel about a future society plagued by infertility, finely acted but unduly cold. With Natasha Richardson, Robert Duvall; director Volker Schlondorff.
Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697) Kensington (071-602 6644/5).

◆ HARDWARE (18): Thunderously outlandish British science-fiction thriller from a new director, Richard Stanley.
Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

◆ HEART CONDITION (15): Bob Hoskins as a racist cop who gets a heart transplant from his own worst enemy (Denzel Washington). Bouncy action-comedy.
Cannon Panton Street (071-930 0631).

KORCZAK (PG): Andrzej Wajda's sobering, straightforward biography of Polish doctor Janusz Korczak, who maintained his orphanages for Jewish children in the teeth of the Warsaw ghetto.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661).

◆ THE LITTLE MERMAID (U): Disney's much-touted version of Hans Christian Andersen's fantasy.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannon Chelsea (071-352 5096) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

LONGTIME COMPANION (15): Norman René's acclaimed drama, following the fortunes of gay Americans throughout the Eighties.
Cannon Piccadilly (071-437 3561).

LOVE AT LARGE (15): Alan Rudolph's delicious, fleet-footed private eye spoof, with Tom Berenger as a rumpled detective sent on the trail of an errant lover who seems to live two separate lives.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

◆ MEMPHIS BELLE (12): David Puttnam's fictional expansion of the war documentary about a US bomber crew's final mission. Convincing planes, fuzzy people.
Warner (071-439 0791).

◆ MO' BETTER BLUES (15): Spike Lee's tale of a self-absorbed New York jazz player (Denzel Washington). The bustling atmosphere keeps the film lively.
Empire (071-497 9999).

THE MUSIC TEACHER (U): Belgian tale of a retired opera singer (José van Dam) training two new apprentices for a competition. Prettily mounted.
Minema (071-235 4225).

◆ NIKITA (18): Grandiose empty-thriller from French wonderboy Luc Besson about a punk drug fiend (Anne Parillaud) retrained by the government as a secret agent.
Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0691) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

◆ PRESUMED INNOCENT (15): Alan J. Pakula's riveting, thoughtful version of Scott Turow's bestseller. With Greta Scacchi.
Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cannons: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

◆ ROBOCOP 2 (18): Nihilistic slam-bang sequel to the 1987 epic about a cop reconstructed as an indestructible robot (Peter Weller). Entertaining special effects.
Odeon Mezzanine (071-930 6111).

◆ ROMUALD AND JULIETTE (12): Coline Serreau's social comedy about a yoghurt factory boss who falls for his West Indian cleaning lady. Long-winded, but with disarming performances from Daniel Auteuil and newcomer Firmine Richard.
Premiere (071-439 4470).

A SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM (15): Would-be black comedy with Michael Caine as an aggrieved marketing man who extracts fatal revenge at work and home.
Odeon Kensington (071-602 6644/5).

◆ WILD AT HEART (18): David Lynch's rollicking tale of psychotic evil and sexual passion. Starring Nicolas Cage.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148).

◆ YOUNG GUNS II – BLAZE OF GLORY (12): Emilio Estevez's "Billy the Kid" leads the brat pack in another glossy Western aimed at teenagers new to the genre. Not a patch on the older films it echoes.
Cannons: Chelsea (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Odeon Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London
■ House full, returns only
☒ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ BOOKENDS: Disappointingly empty tale of two literary blokes. Michael Hordern and Dinsdale Landen try to find some content.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 2663). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 5mins.

☐ ETTA JENKS: Miranda Richardson as the soiled heroine of American porn, strong play by gifted new writer Marlane Meyer.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745/2554). Underground: Sloane Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs.

☐ FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvellous, raunchy jazz musical packed with Louis Jordan songs "Is You Is or Is You Ain't?" and a whole lot more. Terrific.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (081-534 0310). Underground/BR: Stratford. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins. Ends November 24.

☒ GASPING: John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comedy. Rather over the top but lots of laughs.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Piccadilly. Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☒ HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Felicity Kendal, Peter Barkworth in Simon Gray's thought-provoking play about family betrayals.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☒ INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's witty mix of fairytales, grimmer than Grimm in the first half, turns stodgy thereafter.
Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-240 9661). Underground: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

☒ KEAN: Derek Jacobi in splendid form as the low-born actor with a lifelong identity problem.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 3pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins. Ends November 24.

☒ THE KINGDOM OF DESIRE: Contemporary Legend Theatre of Taiwan give four performances of a Chinese version of *Macbeth*, vivid costume, strange instruments.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Underground/BR: Waterloo. Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

☐ LOVE LETTERS: Elaine Stritch and George Peppard take over the duty of reading a lifetime of letters in A.R. Gurney's play.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends Saturday.

☐ MONDAY AFTER THE MIRACLE: Hildegard Neil in William Gibson's emotionally gripping sequel to his *Miracle Worker*, showing how the deaf and blind Helen Keller learns about sex.
New End Theatre, New End, NW3 (071-794 0022). Underground: Hampstead. Tues-Sun, 8pm, mat Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 25mins. Ends Sunday.

☐ THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP: Spoof Gothic melodrama, ranging between the farcically funny and the feebly frantic with Nicholas Grace and Edward Hibbert.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs.

☐ ONCE IN A WHILE THE ODD THING HAPPENS: Benjamin Britten meets Peter Pears, a love story with music; able performances but not enough meat.
National (Cottesloe) (as above). Tonight, 7.30pm. Running time: 2hrs.

☐ OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY: Paul Rogers, Maria Aitken, Martin Shaw as boss, lawyer and shark in entertaining Wall Street takeover drama, excellent at times.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 3686). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☐ OUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs, Michael Williams pants, in latest Ray Cooney farce: over-plotted, under-developed.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Underground: Holborn. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

☒ PRIVATE LIVES: Keith Baxter, Joan Collins and Sara Crowe in Coward's comedy.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Underground: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins.

■ RACING DEMON: David Hare's award-winning state-of-the-church drama.
National (Olivier) (as left). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins.

☐ THE REHEARSAL: Ian McDiarmid's stylish production begins a new run after transferring from the Almeida.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins.

☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Raucous and wild (in the Upper Circle mainly), bold and bizarre, sometimes deafening, sometimes inaudible rock musical.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 9pm, Fri, Sat, 7pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins.

☐ STAND UP AMERICA!: Some of the best of America's stand-up comedians.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1166). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, 8.30pm, Fri, Sat, 7.30pm, 10pm.

☐ TASSO: The trials of being patron to a nervy young poet. Goethe's concern for the balanced life elegantly performed by Actors Touring Company.
Lyric Studio, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3.45pm. Running time: 2hrs 45mins. Ends Saturday.

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ Absurd Person Singular: Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . ■ Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . ☐ Blood Brothers: Albery (071-867 1115) . . ☐ Buddy: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . . . ■ Cats: New London (071-405 0072) . . . ☐ Man of the Moment: Globe (071-437 3667) . . . ☒ Me and My Girl: Adelphi (071-836 7611) . . . ■ Les Misérables: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . ■ Miss Saigon: (postal bookings only) Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-836 8108) . . . ☐ The Mousetrap: St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . ■ The Phantom of the Opera: (postal bookings only) Her Majesty's (071-839 2244) . . ☒ Return to the Forbidden Planet: Cambridge (071-379 5299) . . . ☐ Run For Your Wife: Duchess (071-836 8243) . . ☐ Shirley Valentine: Duke of York's (071-836 5122) . . ☒ Starlight Express: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . ☐ The Woman in Black: Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

TODAY'S EVENTS

DOCTOR FAUST: Antony Beaumont conducts the last performance of David Pountney's rich exploration of the familiar Faustian theme. Good performances by Alan Opie and Graham Clark.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), 7pm.

ISAAC STERN 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: The last of three birthday concerts features the great violinist himself with his son, Michael Stern, conducting the London Symphony Orchestra. The Beethoven programme includes the Triple Concerto and Concerto for Violin; other soloists are Yo-Yo Ma (cello) and Emanuel Ax (piano).
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.

HOLST SINGERS: Nicholas Cleobury conducts a performance of *Requiem* and other Fauré choral pieces.
St George's, Hanover Square, London W1 (081-940 5968), 7.45pm.

SURAYA HILAL: Hilal is a leading exponent of the ancient Raqs Sharqi dance technique, the solo female dance of Egypt, and has received many awards for her work. Tonight until Saturday she will be performing her new work *Divine Rites*.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), 7.30pm.

GEORGE BENSON: The ballad-singing soul guitarist continues his residency at Wembley until Saturday.
Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middlesex (081-900 1234), 7.30pm.

LECTURE: Paul Webb discusses the life and poetry of Felicia Hemans.
Lecture Room, National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0055), 1.10pm, free.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 28

NAGARI
(a) The group of alphabets to which *devanagari* belongs, from the Sanskrit *nagaram* town + *deva-* to form: "The characters are little more than the nagari letters inverted and rounded."

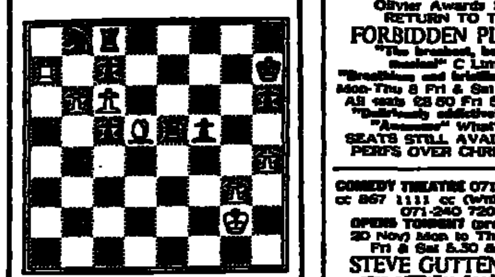
STRAMONIUM
(b) The thorn-apple tree or bush, *Datura Stramonium*, and also a drug like belladonna got from its seeds and leaves, Latin, possibly copied from a Tatar word: "I have found the stramonium especially beneficial in cases of mania attended with little or no fever."

DOLIUM
(a) A large earthenware jar widespread in the Roman empire, more or less spherical, used for holding wine, oil, or dry commodities such as grain, from the Latin: "For everye day of the Kalender of the yere, a dolium of wyne."

ADSCITITIOUS
(a) Supplemental, extrinsic, superfluous, from the Latin *adsciscere* to admit, adopt, and sundry other meanings: "Good old Biff." "It won't last. It's a thoroughly adscititious sonbriquet." "I shan't give you the satisfaction of asking what adscititious means." "Irrelevant."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Alekhine (White) – Schwartz (Black), London 1926. Although White is a rook down, he can win by force. Can you see how? Solution in tomorrow's *Times*.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Bc6! Re1+ 2 Kg2 Kf8 (otherwise White has a deadly discovered check) 3 Ra7! Bc8 4 Ra8 wins the bishop.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 071 836 3161 cc 071 240 5258 cc 1st call 071 240 7200 (24hr/7 day) 071 379 4444
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 7.00 DR FAUST Tomor 7.30 PENNIMORE & GERDA/GIANNI SCHICCHI

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066/1911 Paul Hamlyn Westminster Week. Not available for Public Booking

THEATRES

AMBASSADORS 071 836 6111/2 cc 836 1171/ (24hr) 497 9977 cc (bkg fee) 379 4444/ 071 793 1000 Groups 836 1171 Eves 8pm Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4 "A TIDAL WAVE OF FUN – YOU WOULD BE MAD TO MISS IT" Mail
Nicholas Grace Edward Hibbert
THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP
"BRILLIANT...SPARKLES THROUGHOUT" F. Times
by Charles Ludlam
Directed by Maria Aitken

ALBERY BO & cc (no fee) 867 1115 cc (no fee) 867 1111/379 4444 bkg fee 793 1000/497 9977
BEST MUSICAL SWET Award 1983
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
with STEPHANIE LAWRENCE
"ASTONISHING...A Milestone in British Musicals" S Exp
"...brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404 (cc 071 793 1000 no fee) & 24hr cc 836 2428/379 4444 (bkg fee)
JOAN COLLINS
KEITH BAXTER in
NOEL COWARD'S
PRIVATE LIVES
Evgs 8.0 Wed 3.0 Sat 5.0 & 8.30
SEASON EXTENDED TO JAN 26

ADELPHI 071 836 7611 CC 071 793 1000/071 379 4444 First Call 24hr cc 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) Grps 071 930 6123
NOW BOOKING TO JANUARY
ME AND MY GIRL
THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL
Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00
"THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN" Sunday Express

APOLLO 071-437 2663 cc 379 4444 & 071 793 1000 cc (bkg fee) 071-240 7200
Mon-Fri 8 Sat 5 & 8.30
"GLORIOUSLY FUNNY" Ind on Sun
MICHAEL HORDERN DINSDALE LANDEN
"TWO JEWEL-LIKE PERFORMANCES" S Times
BOOKENDS
A COMEDY BY KEITH WATERHOUSE
Directed by NED SHERRIN
"FULL OF GOOD JOKES" Kaleidoscope
"DELIGHTFUL STUFF" Daily Mail

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 071 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Groups 828 6188 cc Ticketmaster 24hr 379 4444 1st Call 240 7200 K Prowse 071 793 1000 Grps 930 6123 Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0
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STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE
Directed by TREVOR NUNN
SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK
OAP's £5 on Tue Mats
NOW BOOKING TO 28 SEPT '91

CAMBRIDGE 071-379 5299 CC 071 379 4444 (24hr no Bkg Fee) 071 497 9977(24hr)/071 793 1000 (Bkg Fees) Groups 071 240 7941
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"The brashest, boldest musical" C Limits
"Brazilian and brilliant" D Mir
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5 & 8.30
All seats £8.50 Fri 5pm only
"Deliriously addictive" D Tel
"Awesome" What's On
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"Tom Griffin's painfully funny & brilliantly observed drama" Ind.
DIRECT FROM HAMPSTEAD THEATRE

DUCHESS 071 836 8243 (cc no bkg fee 379 4444/240 7200/071 793 1000) Groups 930 6123
Theatre of Comedy Company
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Windsor Davies and Lorraine Chase in
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Written and Directed by Ray Cooney
LONDONS LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY
Evenings 8.0 Mat Thurs 2.30 Saturdays 5.30 & 8.30

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"MUSICALS COME AND GO THIS ONE WILL STAY" S Tms
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Check daily for returns. A few balcony seats usually available. Latecomers not admitted until the interval
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"...She brings the house down with some of the most inventive routines ever seen in a revue" Eve Standard
"Out There Tonight" A Singing Dancing Musical Revue
Must End November 18
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DOMINION BO 071 580 9562/8845 CC 071 379 4444 071 497 9977 (24 hr 7 days) 071 793 1000 bkg fee Grps 071 240 7941
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42ND STREET
Returns to the West End for 64 Perfs
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Olivier Awards 1988
ELIZABETH ESTENSEN in WILLY RUSSELL'S "GEM"
SHIRLEY VALENTINE
Eves 8 Mats Thu 3, Sat 5
"The audience roars approval. Shirley's spell is unbreakable" Mail
"Funniest play for years" D.Mir

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THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER" Guardian
"MASTERLY" Exp
"CHILLING" Ind
"Take Tranquillisers" T Out
Eves 8 Mats Tues 3 Sat 4
"HOORAY FOR HORROR" Obs
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THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP
MUSICAL PLAY IDEAL 3-9 YR OLDS £3.50-£5.50 Book on 071 836 2238

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by JEAN ANOUILH
"IMPRESSIVE...SHOULD BE SEEN" FT
Eves 7.45 Sat 4 & 8 Mat Tue 3

GLOBE THEATRE BO (CC) 071 437 3667
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MAN OF THE MOMENT
Evgs 7.45, Wed 3 Sats 5 & 8.30

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THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
DAVE WILLETTS JILL WASHINGTON MICHAEL CORMICK
Iren Bartok plays Christine at certain performances
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
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SOLD OUT UNTIL JUNE 29 1991
POSTAL APPLICATIONS JULY-SEPT 1991
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JOHN GORDON-SINCLAIR & JIM CARTER are
"GASPING"
by BEN ELTON
Directed by Bob Spiers
"Breathtakingly Funny" I on Sun
"Sublime" FT "A traditional morality play...one Ben Jonson would have recognised" Ind H Tri
MON - THURS EVES 8pm
FRI EVE 8.30 pm
SAT 6pm & 8.30pm
Box Office Now Open

KINGS HEAD 071 226 1916 8.00pm ROUGH CROSSING by Tom Stoppard.

LONDON PALLADIUM BO & CC 071 437 7373 071 437 2055 CC 24hrs 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) 071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) Groups 071 240 7941
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The New All laughter Spectacular with Bella Emberg, Les Dennis and Company
FOR 12 WEEKS ONLY

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (cc no bkg fee 071 836 3464) THE VACKEES - a new musical by CARL DAVIS 7.45pm - ENDS SAT! STUDIO 081 741 8701 ATC presents Goethe's TASSO 8pm

LYRIC Shaftesbury Avenue 071 437 3686 cc 071 379 4444 24 hrs 071 793 1000 / 071 497 9977 bkg fee Grps 071 240 7941/930 6123
"Fascinates with the logic and cruelties of its warfare... authentic and authoritative" Times
Martin Shaw Maria Aitken
OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY
...the ultimate seduction
Mon-Fri 7.30 Sat 4.30 & 8.00 Wed 3.00

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CATS
Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT.
Bars open at 6.45
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THE LONGER YOU WAIT THE LONGER YOU'LL WAIT

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252; Grps 071 620 0741 24 hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977
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Ton't Tomor 7.15 RACING DEMON Hare Tomor 10.30 2.00 & 4.00 THE MAGIC CARPET
LYTTELTON
Ton't Tomor 7.30 THE KINGDOM OF DESIRE based on Shakespeare's MACBETH
COTTESLOE
Today 2.00 & 4.00 THE MAGIC CARPET Ton't 7.30 ONCE IN A WHILE THE ODD THING HAPPENS Godfrey Tomor 7.30 PIANO Griffiths

OLD VIC Box Office & CC 071 928 7616 CC (bkg fee) 240 7200/379 4444/071 793 1000 Grps 930 6123 Mon-Fri 7.30, Wed mat 2.30, Sat 3.00 & 8.00
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"BEST MUSICAL"
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"A SMASH HIT-GET YOUR TICKETS" People
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With Richard O'Brien's musical
THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
Directed by Robin Lefevre
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THE PERFECT PARTY OUTING! Perf 1hr 30

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THE FABULOUS FAMILY MUSICAL
Starring
PATRICK CARGILL JACK WILD MIKE BERRY
Prevs 29 Nov Opens 6 Dec
MI GROUP PLAYHOUSE

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 First Call 24 hr 836 3464 Ticketmaster 379 4444 K Prowse 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Groups 240 7941
CHILDREN OF EDEN
A MUSICAL by
John Caird Stephen Schwartz
Previews from December 19

PRINCE OF WALES BO 071 839 5972 CC First Call 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 (bkg fee) TM 24hr 379 6131 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123
ASPECTS OF LOVE
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CURZON PHOENIX Phoenix St, off Charing Cross Rd 071 240 9661 Andrzej Wajda's KORCZAK (PG) Progs at 1.00 (not Sun) 3.30 6.00 & 8.30

CURZON WEST END Shaftesbury W1 071 439 4805 Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta in Martin Scorsese's GOODFELLAS (18) Progs at 2.15, 5.15, 8.15. Late show Fri & Sat 11.30

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BRIEFING

Pickings far from rich

EVEN as it was winning the *Evening Standard* Drama Award for best play, William Nicholson's *Shadowlands* was smarting from harsh reviews on Broadway, where it opened on Sunday. Although he admired leading actor Nigel Hawthorne, Frank Rich in the *New York Times* wrote that the play, about C.S. Lewis's relationship with American poet Joy Davidman, "has little more intellectual or emotional depth than a tearjerker set in two-car-garage surburbia". Other critics were not much kinder, but the play's true fate will be determined at the box office. Initial signs are not promising: the play opened to almost no advance sales after playing to less than 40 per cent capacity in previews.

A stitch in time

WITH contributions of £50,000 apiece from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the National Art Collection Fund, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art has just purchased an exceptional and important early picture by the French *intimiste* painter, Edouard Vuillard. Low-key in colour and intensely patterned almost to the verge of abstraction, "Two Seamstresses in the Workroom" was acquired from Vuillard's studio by the Edinburgh artist Charles Mackie in 1893 and has been in Scotland ever since. An exhibition of Vuillard's work, which includes "Two Seamstresses", is now on at the William Hardie Gallery, Glasgow.

Forster in the can

THE only E.M. Forster novel left unfilmed will soon be *The Longest Journey*. Shooting finished on Sunday for Charles Sturridge's film of *Where Angels Fear to Tread*, due for release next spring. Judy Davis, from *A Passage to India*, heads the cast along with Rupert Graves, Helen Mirren and Helena Bonham Carter. Early in 1991, the producer Ismail Merchant and director James Ivory — the team responsible for *Maurice* and *A Room With a View* — tackle *Howard's End*, the novel which some considered Forster's master work. Names mentioned as possible stars include Anthony Hopkins and, again, Bonham Carter.

Last chance . . .

TWO hours of non-stop dancing, anecdotes, gags, songs, and a little gentle reincarnation theory confirm Shirley MacLaine as one of the great all-round entertainers of our era — and a stunning advertisement for life after 50. With an eight-piece band and four lithe some hoofers behind her, she gives a mesmerising, high-energy display of technique, character and much self-debunking wit. Her show, *Out There Tonight*, finishes at the Dominion (071-580 8845) on Sunday.

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

No masking a well-worn plot

David Robinson reviews Sam Raimi's *Darkman*, *Criminal Law*, *The Reflecting Skin*, *The Icicle Thief* and *Madhouse*

Liam Neeson attempts a kidnap in *Darkman*, Sam Raimi's update of the classic Grand Guignol story about the disfigured avenger

The crazed avenger, his hideous facial disfigurement hidden behind a mask, has stalked Grand Guignol since Gaston Leroux's 1910 thriller *The Phantom of the Opera*. Hollywood variants have included *The Mystery of the Wax Museum*, *The Face Behind the Mask* and innumerable B-picture derivatives.

In **Darkman** (15, Cannons Fulham Road, Oxford Street; Plaza; Whiteleys), Sam Raimi and a small army of script collaborators (five are credited) bring the story up to date. As the film starts, Liam Neeson is given the standard treatment, by acid bath and fire, at the hands of gangsters working for a crooked property developer (currently the most favoured profession for movie villains).

Neeson happens to be a scientist who has almost (but unfortunately not quite) perfected artificial skin. His mask-making is a sophisticated affair with computers and lasers — a far cry from the handicrafts of the old *Wax Museum*.

In other respects Sam Raimi pays full homage to the most venerable horror-movie traditions. Universal, which produced *Darkman*, was, after all, the studio where both versions of *Phantom of the Opera* were made.

The monster lurks and darts in streets that are transformed to Expressionist nightmares by dramatic lighting and pouring rain. He wears the flowing black cloak and broad-brimmed hat of the old Phantom, though it is unclear where he found such a *recherché* wardrobe. His bandaged face is borrowed from another Universal horror classic, *The Invisible Man*.

Raimi's previous films were the shoestring horror-comics *The Evil Dead* and its sequel. The writing of *Darkman* has not kept pace with the greater sophistication of its production resources. Visually the film is inventive, but the storytelling is slapdash, missing most of its opportunities. Surprisingly little is made, for instance, of the Cinderella syndrome introduced by the synthetic skin which turns to sludge after exposure to light.

Though it could have offered much more, *Darkman* is at least lively nonsense, maintaining its balance between horror and absurdist comedy, and climaxing with an outrageous, cartoon-comedy finale on the heights of a skyscraper building site.

Like Liam Neeson in *Darkman*, Gary Oldman turns American for **Criminal Law** (18, Cannons Chelsea, Haymarket, Shaftesbury Ave), an American-style film, set in Boston but shot in Canada by British Martin Campbell.

The story exploits the layman's fascination with the predicament of defence lawyers who know their clients are guilty. Oldman is an unconventional attorney who successfully defends a rich and charming young man (Kevin Bacon) accused of rape and murder.

The freed man thereupon plays cat-and-mouse with the lawyer, perversely contriving to make him an unintentional accessory in his subsequent serial killings.

Campbell, previously known for his television series *Edge of Darkness*, builds up an atmosphere of menace; and the playing of Oldman and Bacon deserved a better script than Mark Kasdan has given them. The story lurches from corny thriller devices of secret passages and ancestral portraits to the pretensions of a moribund ancient who interrupts the action from time to time, like a deity in classical drama, with philosophical platitudes.

There are occasional, frustrating hints of a darker and potentially more interesting psycho-sexual drama, including a scene where Oldman, engaged in sadistically violent sex with the sister of a murder victim, suddenly perceives his partner as the handsome young murderer himself.

The trail to Canada to make American-style pictures is currently well-trodden by British directors. Another example this week is Philip Ridley's **The Reflecting Skin** (15, Cannons Tottenham Court Road and Piccadilly; Gate, Notting Hill), a bizarre essay in American Gothic, set in Iowa some 40 years ago.

Nine-year-old Seth (Jeremy Cooper) lives in a prairie shack that looks like a painting which Edward Hopper abandoned. Ma is given to subjecting the boy to water torture. Dad incinerates himself, along with the family gas station, on account of something nasty he once did. Brother is a war veteran disintegrating from radiation sickness. The neighbours are weird. The sheriff, having lost an ear to a dog, an eye to a wasp, and a hand to a snapper-fish, has an understandably jaundiced view of things.

The only local amenity is that anyone can hitch a lift from the neighbourhood child-killers, who cruise around in black leather (surely an anachronism for 1950?) and a big Cadillac.

It is no surprise then that little Seth keeps a dead baby under his bed and is given to bursting inflated frogs. This whimsically bizarre tale is presented straight-faced by Philip Ridley as writer-director. Does he intend us to laugh when, at the end of the film, Seth is asked "Why don't you play with your friends", and answers "Because they're all dead"?

Performances are portentously stylised and stubbornly slow; and the best part is Duck Pope's highly decorative camerawork, which provides a striking stage for Ridley's macabre human zoo.

The Icicle Thief (PG, Metro) is an unqualified treat. Maurizio Nichetti belongs to a uniquely Italian school of director-comedians whose films are rarely seen outside their own territory. In his screen character, Nichetti looks rather like the young Einstein, with the mane of an electrocuted lion, a sad, drooping moustache, and startled eyes behind wire-rimmed glasses. He scuttles around on short, stiff legs, but is never fast enough to evade the physical disasters which persistently beset him.

He is a film director in *The Icicle Thief*, invited to the television studios to introduce his black-and-white neo-realist classic. Talked down by a critic, he suffers as his film is sliced-up with brightly coloured commercials.

Gradually film and commercials begin to invade each other. A well-fed, bikini-clad, full-colour model girl lands in the black-and-white misery of the movie and announces her intention of staying there. The poor peasants from the movie wander into the commercials, and are ecstatic at the discovery of this consumer world of plenty. Little Nichetti vainly battles to restore order.

This sophisticated satire on the undifferentiated tap-flow of television is also a passionate declaration of love for the movies. Indeed, its only weakness is that Nichetti's indulgent pleasure in his pastiche of De Sica's *Bicycle Thief* sometimes slows down the comedy. Nichetti is unrecognisable his second role as the balding hero of the neo-realist film within this Pirandellian film.

The true star of **Madhouse** (15, Cannons Tottenham Court Road, Panton Street; Odeon Mezzanine) is an appalling cat that vomits spectacularly on the rest of the cast and persistently resurrects itself, ever more bedraggled, no matter how diligently it is murdered and buried. The human part of the cast are much louder, but rarely have such good script material as the feline.

A first film by writer-director Tom Ropelewski, this situation comedy about a nightmare invasion by awful house-guests demonstrates that mere escalation of catastrophes does not constitute comedy. He story introduces snakes, elephants, malevolent children, drug dealers; burns down one house and demolishes another, but gets no funnier.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (BFI Connoisseur, PG) Jean Cocteau's classic — one of the most spellbinding fairytales in all cinema, splendidly dressed in startling images and fantastic costumes. With Josette Day as Beauty, and Jean Marais — a Beast both ferocious and tender. 1946.

ENEMIES, A LOVE STORY (20.20 Vision, 15) Paul Mazursky's skilful version of the Isaac Bashevis Singer novel about a Holocaust survivor's complicated love life in New York. Engrossing performances from Ron Silver, Anjelica Huston, Lena Olin. 1990.

FELLOW TRAVELLER (BFI Connoisseur, 15) Michael Eaton's intelligent drama about the blacklist era directed by Philip Saville with Hart Bochner and Ron Silver as Hollywood radicals variously coping with the McCarthy nightmare. 1989.

KINGS OF THE ROAD (BFI Connoisseur, 18) Wim Wenders in his road-movie mood, following two men in their personal odyssey along the border between the two Germanies. Lyrical, exuberant, thought-provoking, and long (170 minutes). 1976.

MARX BROTHERS (MGM/UA, U): Boxed set of three comedies from the MGM period, when conventional plots and romance began to sap the team's anarchy. One strong title, *A Day at the Races*, props up two weaker brethren — *Go West* and *The Big Store*.

SANTA SANGRE (Palace 18) Blood-soaked fantasy set in a travelling circus, from cinema's wild man Alejandro Jodorowsky — returning to the director's chair after a ten year gap. Extraordinary, surreal, and disturbing. 1989.

SHE-DEVIL (Virgin Vision, 15) Susan Seidelman's wayward rendition of Fay Weldon's novel about a frumpy housewife's revenge on society. Roseanne Barr and Meryl Streep attack their material with relish, but the book's barbs emerge muffled. 1990.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS (MGM/UA, U) Handsome, irreverent MGM spectacular, which seems almost a musical — instead of bursting into song and dance, Gene Kelly (d'Artagnan) bursts into swordfights to the strains of Tchaikovsky. Lana Turner dazzles as Lady de Winter. 1948.

TOM AND JERRY (MGM/UA U) Five collections of cat-and-mouse antics are newly available — all jumping through the decades, though the simplified cartoons of the late Fifties and Sixties dominate. Acceptable possibly for youngsters, aggravating for adult connoisseurs.

TREASURE ISLAND (MGM/UA, U). Wallace Beery as Long John Silver and Jackie Cooper as "Jim lad", in a polished version of Stevenson's yarn that picks up gusto as it proceeds. Director, Victor Fleming. 1934.

GEOFF BROWN

High point in British cinema: Dupont's *Moulin Rouge*

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Re-awakening a silent splendour

Geoff Brown on a British classic making a comeback

When silent movies are given the gala treatment of live, full-blown musical accompaniment, British cinema tends to get trampled by the big guns from Hollywood and France. True, we have never made a giant of a film like *Napoleon* or *Ben Hur*, but the national output had its moments in the late Twenties, particularly when a young Alfred Hitchcock was at the helm.

On Sunday morning, at the Lumière cinema, the London Film Festival hoists the Union Jack and exhumes E. A. Dupont's *Moulin Rouge* — a spectacular production in its day, which won wide praise from the critics. "Britain's first super-film," said the *Sunday Graphic*; "Dazzlingly brilliant photographic quality," pronounced the *Daily Telegraph*; "Really marvellous," cooed the *News of the World*. The original presentation was accompanied by a pot-pourri of popular melodies; Sunday's audience will be treated to a new score, imaginatively commissioned by the British Film Institute from the jazz composer Mike Westbrook.

Moulin Rouge was made at Elstree by British International Pictures, and the company took the "international" seriously. The director, chief cameraman and art director were from Germany, where the star, Olga Tschechowa, a White Russian (and Chekhov's niece), had also carved her career. France supplied the leading man, Jean Bradin, and the setting — the Parisian cabaret where Tschechowa performs exotic gyrations and wins the love of a well-bred young man who had initially planned to marry her daughter.

Dupont is largely forgotten now, yet his 1925 circus melodrama, *Variety* — hugely successful with international audiences — made him cinema's golden boy for a time. The Elstree studio proudly placed him under contract and gave their star director unlimited resources: he clearly spent them on elaborate visuals and mobile camera work rather than the story. At its debut, *Moulin Rouge* weighed in at a corpulent 144 minutes. Audiences grew restless, even with Tschechowa's lustrous performance, and about 50 minutes were quickly trimmed off. The revival uses the slimline version.

Westbrook is no stranger to dramatic music. His large-scale jazz compositions often have a narrative thrust; he has written background scores for the National Theatre and plans to write an opera. However, *Moulin Rouge* marks his cinema debut. For instrumentation, he is using the perky chamber group of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*. Sunday's players are the Matrix Ensemble, conducted by Robert Ziegler, who demonstrated his feel for music theatre with his programmes of Eisler and Weill at the recent Almeida festivals. He promises a score that is "bluesy, surprising, and very eclectic".

The chamber scoring means Westbrook's music can be easily toured, bringing *Moulin Rouge* to wider audiences. The film will also be seen on BBC 2 — the first, it is hoped, of a series of silent revivals with new scores, including Murnau's *Faust*, Jacob Protazanov's crazy fantasy *Aelita* and the silent version of Hitchcock's *Blackmail*.

Has Dupont's time finally come again? It would be pleasant to think so. For the golden boy had rotten luck once sound came in. Dialogue made his films seem ponderous; Nazi tyranny shunted him to Hollywood, where he was struck off the books for 11 years after punching one of the Dead End Kids, who had been taunting him about his accent.

Moulin Rouge, with Westbrook's music, recalls a vanished, adventurous age of British movie-making, just before the microphone turned all studios into towers of Babel. There is nothing here that needs sweeping, sheepishly, under the carpet.

● Moulin Rouge *is being presented on November 18 at 11am at the Lumière cinema. Tickets from the National Film Theatre (071-928 3232).*

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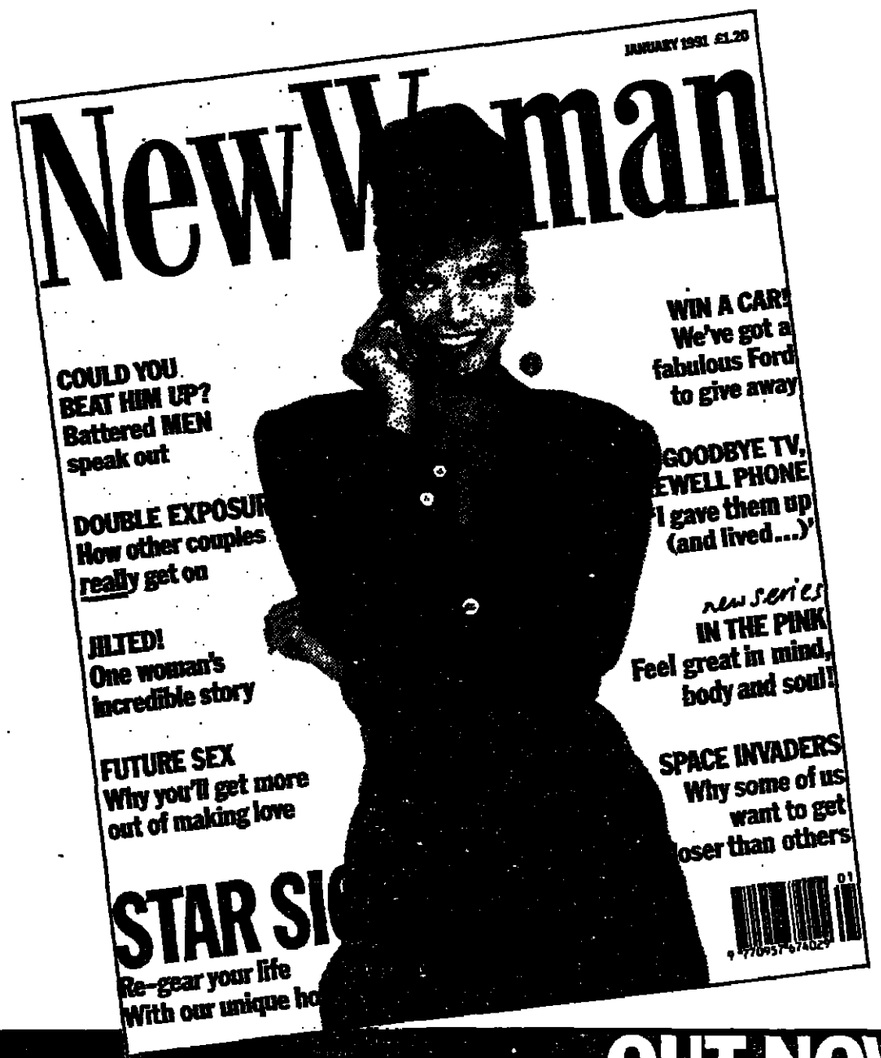


OUT NOW

New Woman. You can't be one without it.

Three face charges over the Guildford Four case

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THREE of the Surrey detectives involved in questioning the Guildford four are to be prosecuted for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, Allan Green QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, announced yesterday.

Up to a dozen current and former officers were named in a report sent to the DPP some weeks ago by a team of Avon and Somerset officers investigating the case. Yesterday a spokesman for the DPP said Mr Green had concluded there was insufficient evidence to justify criminal proceedings against any other officers involved in the prosecution of the four after IRA bombings in Guildford and Woolwich 16 years ago.

The three men facing charges are former Detective Inspector Thomas Style, who retired as a superintendent, former Detective Sergeant John Donaldson and Detective Constable Vernon Attwell. Summonses against the three will be issued within days. After the announcement of the DPP's decision, the Surrey force announced that two other officers, Detective Sergeant Martin Wise and Detective Constable Peter Lewis, remain suspended pending a decision on disciplinary proceedings.

After the DPP's announcement, Brian Hayes, chief constable of Surrey, said: "I am very sad that one serving and two retired officers from the Surrey constabulary are to be prosecuted. Nevertheless, I take comfort from the fact that after such an exhaustive and painstaking enquiry action is being taken against so few. In particular, I am relieved that no evidence has emerged of any systematic conspiracy, corruption or wrongdoing in respect of the Guildford pub bombings case. We must now await developments at the trial."

The Guildford four are Paul Hill, Gerry Conlon, Patrick Armstrong and Carole Richardson. They were freed in October 1989 after 15 years in prison by the Court of Appeal when the Crown announced evidence had emerged of alleged malpractice by Surrey officers. The prosecutions announced yesterday will not be heard until next year. The judicial enquiry under Sir John May, a former appeal court judge, set up to look at the case, will have to wait until the end of next year or 1992 to start work on the main Guildford issues.

Sir John stopped sitting publically earlier this year after hearings on the Maguire case and is now taking written evidence. The delays mean the settlement of compensation for the four Guildford defendants may also be delayed.

MICHAEL POWELL

Lock-keepers: a Sotheby's porter, Colin Andrews, waits for assistance beside the Constable painting auctioned yesterday

JOHN Constable's *The Lock* broke the world record for a British painting when Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza secured it for £10.78 million at Sotheby's in London, bidding personally on the telephone (Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent, writes). The price, however, fell short of the £15 million upper estimate placed by the auctioneers.

The underbidder, gesturing from within a capacity crowd, was the London dealer Christopher Gibbs, acting for "a London citizen". Afterwards Mr Gibbs complained that the 1824 river scene described by the artist as "beautifully silvery, windy, and delicious" and "my friends all tell me it is my best" will now become, like the other works in the baron's much travelled collection, an "exiled masterpiece".

As a shareholder and member of Sotheby's advisory board, the baron has both acquired a great painting and given the flagging market a boost. In spite of two attempts by Christie's to break it with two leading works by Turner, both of which went unsold, the record had been held for six years by Turner's *Seascape, Folkestone*. The proceeds from *The Lock*, minus Sotheby's cut, will go towards settling outstanding death duties from the estate at Sudeley Castle, Gloucestershire.

The painting is now, according to Sotheby's, destined for the baron's museum in Lugano, Switzerland, passing to Spain next year. Fifth in Constable's series of six scenes on the Stour, it shows Flatford Lock from a low viewpoint, with a barge in the basin while the lock-keeper opens the shutter of the lock gates. The tower of Dedham church can be seen in the distance.

Meanwhile English Heritage acquired their most expensive painting after secretly bidding for it at Sotheby's in London yesterday (Simon Tait writes). *View from the Cascade Terrace, Chiswick*, by George Lambert and William Hogarth, was bought for £200,000, £50,000 less than the expected price, with help from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the National Art Collections Fund and the London Historic House Museums Trust.

Political sketch

Competition in the Womble Stakes

"LORD Montagu has told me," started Chris Patten, bravely. He was answering a question about the chairman of English heritage and his "cathedrals initiative" ...but it was no use. Try as he would, there was no way the environment secretary and his plucky ministerial team could interest the House in a wider environment than is defined by the boundaries of Henley.

"Who's *he* voting for?" shouted Labour backbenchers, involving even the august Lord Montagu in the Tory leadership elections. Mr Patten tried again.

"I realise the repair of cathedrals is not uppermost in everyone's mind at present."

"Point of Order, Mr Speaker! yelled Dennis Skinner, interrupting. He was pointing at the Tories' James Hill (Southampton Test), opposite, conferring with colleagues and writing something onto a notepad: "Is it in order for the hon gentleman to keep a "book"?"

It had been thus ever since Prayers. One of the first questions had been from the double-barrelled, watch-chained and silk-handkerchiefed Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes (C) who must be disappointed to represent only a single-barrelled constituency, Wimbledon. Dr Goodson-Wickes spoke mournfully of "the sorry state of the River Wandle."

"It flows," he added, in case anyone should wonder how so elegant a man could be interested in a ditch, "through my constituency of Wimbledon."

Opposition voices yelled: "You're a womble! "a Wandle womble!" A helpful thought struck me: "Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes (Conservative-Unionist, Wimbledon-Wombledon)" is an unlikely womble.

A better womble would be the new junior minister in Mr Patten's department, the kindly, roly-poly Robert Key. Yesterday was his first day at the dispatch box, but ministerial debuts — and ministerial resignation speeches — are two-a-penny these days and nobody can remember who is minister of what, any longer. It resembles what one supposes to have been the atmosphere surrounding the last days of Czar Nicholas II. "Might as well enjoy it while it lasts" seemed to be Key's approach.

Ted Heath's previous parliamentary private secretary, and ideologically "caring", Mr Keys exemplifies a phenomenon I described some months ago: Mrs Thatcher has been more reliably served by her ideological enemies (I described them as "eunuchs" in her court) than by her hatchet men (I called them "centurions"). As centurions keep getting into trouble, the eunuchs keep on ding along: and, office by office, eunuchs are replacing centurions. Robert Key indirectly replaces the very Thatcherite Patrick Nicholls. Chris Patten replaced Nick Ridley. There are eunuchs everywhere now, running all over the place. Everywhere except at No 10 itself...

Their king in exile, Mr Heseltine, had been quoted that morning as promising to abolish poll-tax if elected leader. Labour were full of this and tried to bring it into everything — even a question about a new main drain for Inverness. Eventually, Mr Key was cornered by Labour's Dave Blunkett. Where did he stand on the abolition of poll-tax?

Gamely, Key stood foursquare behind the PM. Heseltine, he said was "promising jam tomorrow, like Labour."

Note that Key is a eunuch, and study the reply given by fellow-minister Michael Portillo — a centurion — to the same question, later. Portillo ducked it. He denied that Heseltine had made such a pledge.

Curious, you think, that the eunuch supports and the centurion ducks? Not really. A eunuch is confident of his position under this caesar or the next. Centurions, however, are looking to a less certain future. Centurions are beginning to hedge. A fascinating moment.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Israelis fear attacks from all quarters

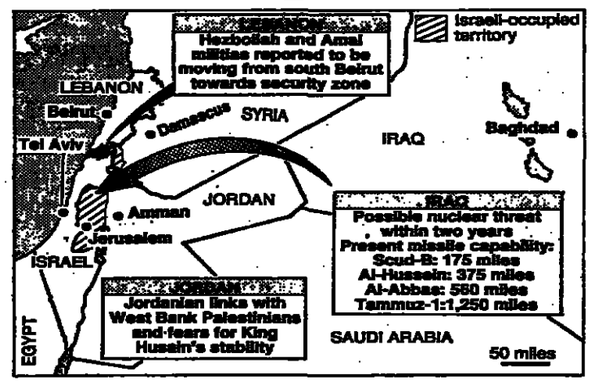
Continued from page 1

chemical war heads for its medium-range missiles, and say Israel would only have a few hours' advance warning at most of preparations for an attack.

Israeli concern over deteriorating border security with Jordan, which has supported Baghdad, is reflected in calls this week for Israel to create a "security zone" in the Jordan valley to match the zone it established in southern Lebanon in 1985. The death of an Israeli sergeant on Tuesday during an attack by an Arab gunman, and a similar incident last week are being directly attributed to a loss of control over Arab extremists by King Husain as his throne is buffeted by pro-Iraqi fervour.

There is also anxiety over Lebanon and reports that Hezbollah, Amal and other Shia Muslim militias are leaving Beirut and regrouping in southern Lebanon within striking distance of the nine-mile security zone patrolled by the Israeli Army and its Arab ally, the South Lebanon Army.

Israel is also afraid that a prolonged confrontation is fanning the flames of the *intifada*, or Palestinian uprising, which had been flagging until the Gulf conflict but is gathering pace again.



Media menagerie stalks an elusive challenger

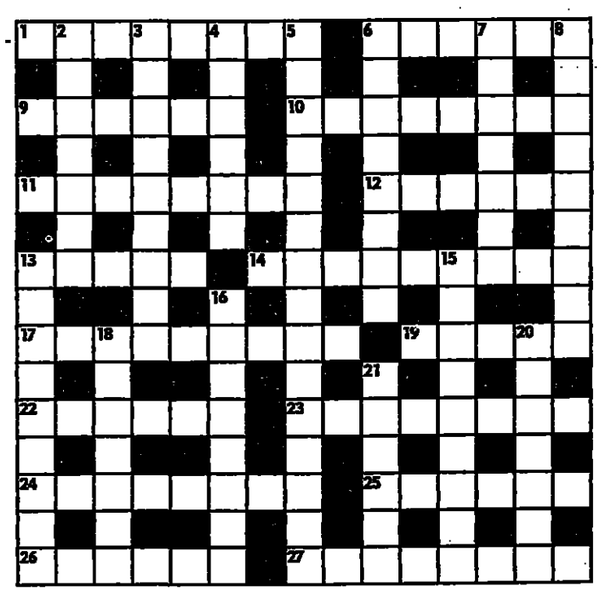
Continued from page 1

he is about to deliver." Over an hour later the political correspondents reappeared and galloped off in all directions, pausing only to *confirm that* yes, *he was*, that several spaniels had been running around their feet as they went about their business, and that his wife Anne had been running around like a mad thing organising the interviews and answering the incessantly ringing phone.

At last, at high noon, a consummation. Mr Mates came out and said rather grandly: "He is going to make his statement and pose for photographs, but he will not answer questions." Twice minutes later the candidate himself emerged, his glasses in one hand and his wife in the other, the famous blond mane looking as though a squadron of coiffeurs had been preparing it since dawn. The bears and monkeys became dangerously excited.

He put on his glasses and read his statement. Mrs Heseltine looked at him adoringly, and at one stage conspicuously crossed her fingers. PC Donaghy muttered "He's standing," into his lapel.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,452



ACROSS

1 Welsh town in which the leaves drop (8).
6 Grab high-sounding honour (6).
9 An acid critic right out of place (6).
10 He looks you in the eye, producing a coin tip (8).
11 Greens here form group after whip round (4-4).
12 Countryman's dog retrieved out of its turn (6).
13 It may be shingled or combed by a man (5).
14 It sounds an admirable vehicle for the back-seat driver (6,3).
17 A booby, obviously (9).
19 Some infant rattles can produce cavities (5).
22 Game with chips? This is the place to visit! (6).
23 A gremlin developing in revolutionary calendar (8).
24 A repeated phrase, one the Western allies applied to E German (8).
25 A free BBC (6).
26 Actors go off in this direction (6).
27 In headlong flight from a grenade explosion (8).

DOWN

2 Record I have left for one of a later generation (7).
3 It's not made up — that's obvious (9).
4 Mysterious officer in charge of religious system (6).
5 Shanty for young sweeps? (4,7,4,).
6 Use stolen iron to smooth out cloth (3-5).
7 Like one joining a non-voluntary movement, a Continental (7).
8 Royal Horse Artillery is a killer in the jungle (4,5).
13 Doubly qualified old fool the first to eye this woolly creature (9).
15 After the battle, almost disregard the priest (9).
16 Old sailor's ship, half novel submarine (8).
18 Party wear in favour (7).
20 Regroup in large formation (7).
21 French dog is perhaps rabid? Right! (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,451

Concise Crossword, page 19

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

NAGARI
a. A group of alphabets
b. A hot gingery spice
c. A monodendral canoe

STRAMONIUM
a. A mechanical guitar
b. The thorn-apple
c. The big thigh ligament

DOLIUM
a. An earthenware jar
b. A lion trap
c. A fallacious syllogism

ADSCITITIOUS
a. Superfluous
b. Grasping
c. Learning by doing

Answers on page 26

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.).731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. ...733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23- M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Most districts will see more rain. Eastern England will be windy at first with a few showers. Otherwise much of England and eastern Scotland will have a bright morning. It will soon cloud over across Wales, Northern Ireland and western Scotland, with outbreaks of rain spreading from the west and on to remaining areas during the afternoon. Windy, especially over Scotland, but mild. Outlook: further rain

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	f	Majorca	19	66	s
Akrotiri	22	72	s	Malaga	18	64	c
Alex'dria	25	77	s	Malta	19	66	f
Algiers	19	66	f	Melb'rne	16	61	c
Amst'dm	12	54	c	Mexico C*	15	59	s
Athens	16	61	c	Miami*	25	77	s
Bahrain	26	79	s	Milan	6	43	c
Barbados*	30	86	f	Montreal*	-1	30	sn
Barcelona	17	63	f	Moscow	1	34	sn
Belgrade	12	54	s	Munich	8	46	r
Berlin	10	50	c	Naples	18	64	s
Bermuda*	24	75	f	N Delhi	27	81	s
Biarritz	15	59	c	N York*	5	41	s
Borde'x	15	59	c	Nice	13	55	f
Brussels	13	55	c	Oslo	5	41	d
Budapest	4	39	c	Paris	12	54	c
B Aires*	23	73	c	Peking	12	54	c
Cairo	27	81	s	Perth	21	70	s
Cape Tn	15	59	f	Prague	6	43	r
C'blanca	21	70	s	Reykjvik	6	43	c
Chicago*	8	46	s	Rhodes	18	64	f
Ch'church	15	59	f	Rio de J	26	79	s
Cologne	11	52	r	Riyadh	21	70	s
C'phgn	9	48	fg	Rome	16	61	s
Corfu	13	55	f	Salzburg	7	45	r
Dublin	11	52	c	S F'risco*	14	57	f
Dubrovnik	17	63	s	Santiago*	16	61	c
Faro	19	66	f	S Paulo*	30	86	c
Florence	14	57	f	Seoul	18	64	f
Frankfurt	10	50	r	Sing'por	30	86	f
Funchal	20	68	f	St'kholm	5	41	r
Geneva	9	48	c	Strasb'rg	11	52	c
Gibraltar	19	66	s	Sydney	28	82	s
Helsinki	-2	28	s	Tangier	22	72	s
Innsbruck	7	45	c	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Istanbul	13	55	f	Tenerife	23	73	f
Jeddah	33	91	f	Tokyo	20	68	s
Jo'burg*	29	84	s	Toronto*	1	34	c
Karachi	31	88	s	Tunis	19	66	c
L Palmas	25	77	s	Valencia	17	63	f
Le Tquet	13	55	c	Vanc'ver*	10	50	f
Lisbon	18	64	f	Venice	14	57	s
Locarno	8	46	r	Vienna	8	46	s
L Angeles*	23	73	s	Warsaw	4	39	c
Luxembg	9	48	d	Wash'ton*	9	48	s
Luxor	29	84	s	Wel'ston	13	55	r
Madrid	16	61	s	Zurich	9	48	r

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.1	.04	14	57	bright
Anglesey	1.8	.06	13	55	bright
Aviemore	0.7	.06	14	57	cloudy
Belfast	0.7	.05	13	55	cloudy
Birmingham	2.2	-	15	59	bright
Blackpool	2.1	.23	14	57	bright
Bognor Regis	0.8	.01	13	55	cloudy
Bournemouth	1.1	.05	15	59	shower
Bristol	3.6	.10	15	59	shower
Buxton	-	.04	10	50	sunny
Cardiff	2.5	.13	14	57	cloudy
Clacton	0.8	.05	12	54	cloudy
Cromer	0.3	.02	13	55	cloudy
Douglas	-	.12	13	55	cloudy
Edinburgh	0.7	.02	14	57	shower
Eskdalemuir	-	.45	11	52	rain
Exmouth	4.4	.16	15	59	bright
Folkestone	0.2	.04	13	55	cloudy
Glasgow	2.1	.21	13	55	rain
Guernsey	1.8	.06	17	63	cloudy
Hastings	-	.02	13	55	shower
Hunstanton	0.7	.04	13	55	shower
Jersey	2.0	.03	16	61	shower
Kinloss	1.6	.31	15	59	bright
Leeds	2.5	-	16	61	bright
Lerwick	-	.72	10	50	rain
Littlehampton	0.3	.01	14	57	cloudy
London	0.3	.01	15	59	cloudy
Lowestoft	1.3	.02	14	57	cloudy
Manchester	3.0	-	15	59	bright
Margate	X	.02	14	57	dull
Minehead	6.1	.15	16	61	sunny
Morecambe	1.6	.15	13	55	rain
Newcastle	X	.04	14	57	rain
Nottingham	1.1	.02	15	59	shower
Penzance	4.1	.52	15	59	rain
Plymouth	0.6	.35	14	57	cloudy
Poole	2.0	.08	15	59	drizzle
Scarboro Snd	2.3	.07	14	57	sunny
Scarborough	1.5	.08	13	55	bright
Scilly Isles	4.2	.43	14	57	dull
Shanklin	1.8	.04	14	57	rain

Tuesday's figures are latest available

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex 702
Dorset,Hants & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms 705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon 706
Beds,Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs 708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent .709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincs & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N W England 716
W & S Yorks & Dales 717
N E England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S W Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders ..722
E Central Scotland 723
Grampian & E Highlands 724
N W Scotland 725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland ...726
N Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 15C (59F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 6 pm, 71 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.13in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 2.2 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,014.2 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Tuesday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, 17C (63F); lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.72 in; highest sunshine: Minehead, Somerset, 6.1 hr.

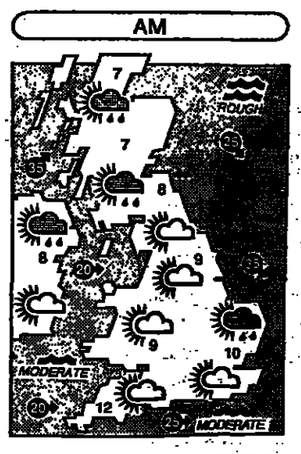
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12C (54F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.17 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.6 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.17 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.5 hr.

AM



PM

LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.12 pm to 7.20 am
Bristol 4.22 pm to 7.28 am
Edinburgh 4.06 pm to 7.51 am
Manchester 4.12 pm to 7.36 am
Penzance 4.38 pm to 7.37 am

Sun rises: 7.18 am
Sun sets: 4.12 pm
Moon rises: 5.28 am
Moon sets: 2.48 pm
New Moon November 17

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	10	50c		Guernsey	13	55c	
B'ngham	13	55c		Inverness	10	50f	
Blackpool	11	52r		Jersey	13	55c	
Bristol	14	57f		London	13	55c	
Cardiff	13	55f		M'nchester	11	52f	
Edinburgh	11	52c		Newcastle	12	54c	
Glasgow	11	52r		R'ldsway	12	54f	

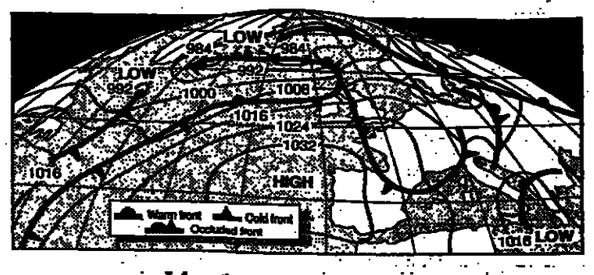
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.11	6.9	12.29	6.8
Aberdeen	—	—	12.01	3.9
Avonmouth	5.37	12.3	5.56	12.4
Belfast	9.39	3.2	9.45	3.4
Cardiff	5.22	11.4	5.41	11.5
Devonport	4.07	5.1	4.23	5.2
Dover	9.32	6.2	9.56	6.1
Falmouth	3.37	4.9	3.53	5.0
Glasgow	11.31	4.7	11.29	4.7
Harwich	10.13	3.7	10.41	3.8
Holyhead	8.53	5.1	9.07	5.2
Hull	4.38	6.9	5.09	6.8
Ilfracombe	4.21	8.4	4.40	8.5
King's Lynn	4.49	6.0	5.18	6.0
Leith	12.56	5.2	1.17	5.2

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	8.45	8.7	10.02	8.8
Lowestoft	7.43	2.4	8.30	2.3
Margate	10.31	4.6	11.04	4.6
Milford Haven	4.40	6.3	4.58	6.4
Newquay	3.33	6.4	3.51	6.5
Oban	4.20	3.6	4.24	3.7
Penzance	3.10	5.2	3.24	5.3
Portland	5.20	2.0	5.34	2.0
Portsmouth	10.08	4.7	10.30	4.5
Shoreham	9.37	5.9	10.02	5.7
Southampton	9.43	4.3	9.52	4.2
Swansea	4.48	8.8	5.05	9.0
Tees	1.51	5.0	2.20	4.9
W'ton-on-Nze	10.07	4.0	10.38	4.0

Tide is metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

NOON TODAY



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هكذا من الأصل

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer
8.50 Daytime UK. Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester link the morning's programmes
9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Brainwave. Andy Craig with the leisure-based quiz 9.25 Dish of the Day. Cooking hints with Rosemary Moon 9.30 People Today. With three mothers-to-be
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with Playdays which comes from Merthr Tydfil 10.25 Pingu. Cartoon series about a clumsy penguin 10.35 People Today. Kaffe Fassett looks at arts and crafts.
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a discussion on Mr Heseltine's challenge to Mrs Thatcher 11.45 Before Noon. The winner of today's *Brainwave* quiz is revealed
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 After Noon. Fight the flab with Rosemary Conley's diet and fitness club 12.20 Scene Today. Live entertainment from Pebble Mill 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going for Gold. Quiz show

Patric Doonan (left) and Dirk Bogarde (2.15pm)

2.15 Film: The Blue Lamp (1949, b/w). Classic British bobby film which spawned the long-running BBC television series *Dixon of Dock Green*. With Jack Warner as the kindly, experienced copper and Dirk Bogarde in one of his early specialities as a young hoodlum. Directed by Basil Dearden 3.40 Tom and Jerry Double Bill
3.50 The Brollys. Animated series narrated by David Shaw Parker 4.05 Clockwise. Fast-moving quiz game 4.20 Fantastic Max. Cartoon
4.35 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men. Return of the award-winning children's comedy series that casts Maid Marian as the real brains behind the Sherwood Forest gang with Robin as her wimpish sidekick
5.00 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter looks ahead to Astronomy Week. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Bruno Brookes (simultaneous broadcast with Radio 1)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax)
8.00 Tomorrow's World includes a report from Korea on how acorns are being used to clean heavy metals
8.30 Birds of a Feather. Down-to-earth comedy about two sisters whose husbands are spending spells in prison. (Ceefax). Northern Ireland: Spotlight
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather
9.30 One Foot in the Grave. Last in David Renwick's mordant comedy series about a crotchety older man resentful that he was retired early. (Ceefax)
10.00 Your Cheatin' Heart. The final episode of John Byrne's puzzling comedy drama sees the country-and-western musicians and their hangers-on descending on Aberdeen. (Ceefax)
10.50 Question Time presented by Peter Sissons from Robinson College, Cambridge. Tonight's guests are Mary Whitehouse, the Bishop of Durham, David Jenkins, and MPs Kenneth Baker and Gordon Brown
11.50 Nearly Departed. Eric Idle and Caroline McWilliams in the tepid American comedy about two modern ghosts haunting their old house
12.15am Weather

BBC 2

6.00 News
6.15 Westminster. A round-up of yesterday's parliamentary proceedings
9.00 Daytime on Two: includes 9.15 Women Mean Business. (Ceefax) 11.00 Dangers in the food we eat 12.05 Volcanic landscapes in Scotland and Northumberland
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r) 2.15 In the Shadow of Fujisan. In this last of three documentaries Japan's changing attitudes to the sea and its wildlife is examined (r). (Ceefax)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live with Vivian White and Brian Curtois 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Call My Bluff. Robert Robinson chairs a war of words between Frank Muir and Arthur Marshall and their guests (r)
4.30 Behind the Headlines. Jeffery Archer and Paul Boateng with conflicting views on a road pricing system in which drivers would pay a premium for using congested inner city roads
5.00 Play Snooker. With Dennis Taylor (r)
5.30 Clean Slate presented by Jackie Spreckley. Includes Gail Foley in Dyfed, where she meets English people who are not happy being taught in Welsh
6.00 Film: Road to Singapore (1940, b/w). Bob Hope and Bing Crosby star in the first of a season of their "Road" comedies. They play two seafaring bachelors who quit town quickly in an attempt to avoid any offers of marriage. Their final destination is an exotic island just south of Singapore, where they meet saronged Dorothy Lamour and her envious, whip-wielding lover Anthony Quinn. Wittily directed by Victor Schertzinger. Wales: DEF II
7.20 Animation Now: Spotting a Cow. An eccentric art critic scrutinises a cow's spots
7.30 First Sight: Friends in High Places. Terry Dignan reveals how individuals, companies and organisations can affect law-making. Wales: Open Space; Northern Ireland: Birds of a Feather; England: East — Second Thought; Midlands: The Midlands Report; Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester: Close-Up North; Southampton: Southern Eye; Plymouth: Western Approach; Bristol: Current Account

The cook's cook: Delia Smith (8.00pm)

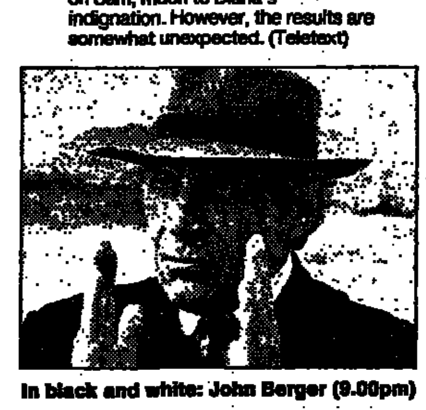
8.00 Delia Smith's Christmas.
● CHOICE: The practical, no-nonsense cookery of Delia Smith has long been absent from the screen with the BBC apparently preferring the manic Keith Floyd, the high camp Hudson and Halls, and the gently bickering Roux brothers. Smith is not showbusiness, and works without gimmicks, but she is surely the cook's cook. For her new series she invites us into her Suffolk home for a tutorial on Christmas fayre, punctuated by visits to Harrods' food hall and the local ham specialist. As always, she offers basic, straightforward advice, although like other cookery programmes this one tries to cover too much in the time and anyone trying to take down the recipes will need rapid shorthand. No doubt there will be a book. Tonight she tackles Christmas cakes, hams and pickles. The cakes are calculated to make the slimming-conscious wince. (Ceefax)
8.30 Top Gear. The series for motoring enthusiasts, presented by William Woollard. Includes road tests on the VW Caravelle and the Toyota Previa
9.00 Harry Enfield's Television Programme. Another hit-and-miss selection of odd-ball comic characters
9.30 40 Minutes: A Summer in the Country.
● CHOICE: A report from the Quantock Hills in Somerset sets a debate about stag hunting in a wider context of residents versus incomers. The pro-hunting lobby is led by Anthony Trollope-Bellew, whose family have been squires since the Norman conquest, and more humble locals who resent "foreigners" coming in and buying houses their own children cannot afford. The interlopers are represented by John Hicks of the League Against Cruel Sports and a combative former Tory councillor from Essex, Doreen Cronin. While Cronin fires off letters to the press and Hicks massages his contacts in television, squire Trollope-Bellew asserts that "stag hunting is the golden thread that has bound our community together for hundreds of years". Presented without commentary, Nick Catliff's film says most of what it needs to say in the first ten minutes and sometimes struggles to fill the other 30. (Ceefax)
10.10 Smith and Jones in Small Doses. Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones star in Anthony Minghella's comic playlet *Second Thoughts*. Boz, fed up with being second at everything in life, is determined to be the first to jump to his death from a newly-constructed bridge. Then Sam arrives on the bridge, also determined to be the first to jump (r). (Ceefax)
10.30 Newsnight
11.15 The Late Show. Paul Morley explores the experience of watching all night television in the UK
11.55 Weather
12.00 Behind the Headlines. See 4.30. Ends at 12.35am

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Keynotes. Musical game show 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . Topical discussion show hosted by Mike Scott
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan
12.05 The Riddlers 12.25 Home And Away. Australian drama about a couple and their foster children 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 The Home Show. Creative and practical ideas for homeowners, presented by Molly Parkin. Including a look inside the private apartments of Lord Lichfield's ancestral home in Staffordshire, and tips from Roddy Llewellyn on how to make a small garden look larger 1.50 A Country Practice. Rural Australian soap
2.20 TV Weekly. The first of a new series of the show that goes behind the scenes at ITV, presented by Anne Diamond 2.50 Talkabout. The game show for quick-thinking couples, hosted by Andrew O'Connor
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. More Aussie drama at the Albert Memorial Hospital
3.55 The Raggy Dolls 4.10 Disney's Duck Tales (r) 4.35 Speedy and Daffy (r)
4.40 Jackson Pace: The Great Years. Concluding episode of the comedy drama about an intrepid explorer in search of hidden treasure
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, hosted by Bob Holness
5.40 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
5.55 Thames Help with advice on grants for pensioners
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. Topical soap set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle)
7.30 Hurray for Today USA: Fancy Cakes and Painted Ladies. The first of a new series in which the ebullient Lucinda Lambton explores the architecture of the United States
8.00 The Bill: Testimony. As a rape victim lies in hospital, DS Roach has a hunch that the obvious suspect may not have done it. But DCI Wray wants the case approached scientifically and Roach finds that his judgment is on the line. (Oracle)
8.30 This Week: Who Leads the Tories? As Michael Heseltine throws his hat in the ring in the contest for the leadership of the Conservative party *This Week* examines the issues and personalities involved. Includes reports from grass-roots Conservative supporters on who they consider to be the most likely to lead the party into the next general election
9.00 Capital City. Many-faceted ensemble drama about a bunch of whiz-kids who work in a London merchant bank. Among tonight's ingredients are a tricky bond issue, the threat of staff cutbacks and a pregnancy. A very watchable series: no financial expertise necessary. (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Trevor McDonald. Weather 10.30 Thames News and weather
10.40 The City Programme examines the ever-widening opportunities to "punt" for penny shares
11.10 01. Includes Derek Malcolm reviewing the second part of the London Film Festival and an interview with actor Richard Gere
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Low-budget Australian drama set in a women's detention centre
12.30am A Problem Aired. New series of the counselling programme in which Dr John Cobb offers advice to people with problems of an emotional nature
1.00 The Concert. Featuring Jagged Edge rocking at the Town & Country Club, London, supported by Rhode Island Red. Followed by News headlines
2.00 Film: Such Good Friends (1971). Sex comedy in poor taste starring Dyan Cannon as a woman trying to have an affair after discovering that her husband, who lies critically ill in an intensive care unit, is not the loving, faithful man she believed him to be. Also stars James Coco and Jennifer O'Neill. Directed by Otto Preminger
4.00 The Invisible Man (b/w). The bandaged hero becomes involved in an international drugs racket (r)
4.30 America's Top Ten (r)
5.00 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rowe. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Calming landscape images accompanied by soothing music
6.20 Business Daily.
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron with reports from Nicholas Woolley
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 World of Herbs: Seeds. A welcome re-run of last January's series, in which Lesley Bremness explores the versatility of herbs and their use as food, cosmetics, household products and medical remedies. Filmed in and around Lesley's famous Suffolk herb nursery, which contains more than 200 varieties (r)
2.30 Film: King of Burlesque (1936, b/w). Bright and lively musical starring Warner Baxter as a burlesque show producer in New York's Bowery deciding to move up-market to Broadway, together with leading lady Alice Faye. However, after fame, fortune and marriage to an extravagent society widow, his career and bank balance head rapidly downhill, to be rescued in the best Hollywood manner by Faye, who gets her man in the end. The production, cast and musical performances make up for the plot's shortcomings. Directed by Sidney Lanfield
4.10 Nature Scenes from the North. A look at the flora and fauna of Lapland
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Fifteen more contestants are put through their paces by William G. Stewart to find the one who will go through to the final
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah's guests are the winners of the Nashville Country Music Awards, who sing their hits and talk about the inspiration behind their music
5.50 The Adventures of TinTin. TinTin's adventures continue on Black Island (r)
6.00 The Crystal Maze. Richard O'Brien hosts the adventure entertainment game show, with teams attempting to win the "cell games" within the complicated maze (r)
7.00 Channel Four News with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 The Great Moghuls. Bamber Gascoigne continues his exploration of the rise and fall of the Moghul empire, looking this week at the enigmatic figure of Shah Jahan. Having gained the throne by murdering members of his family, he then built the Taj Mahal as a love monument to his wife Mumtaz (r)
8.30 Cheers. Breezy comedy set in a Boston bar. This week Rebecca, an old college friend of Diana, turns up at Cheers and immediately sets her sights on Sam, much to Diana's indignation. However, the results are somewhat unexpected. (Teletext)



In black and white: John Berger (9.00pm)

9.00 Film: Play Me Something (1989).
● CHOICE: The critic John Berger fills Channel 4's Thursday night film slot with an adaptation of his own story about a love affair in Venice between a 40-year-old peasant from the countryside and a girl who works in a chemist's shop. Berger also appears as narrator, telling the tale to a group of passengers waiting to fly from Barra in the Hebrides to the mainland. Berger's Marxist concerns are soon evident. The lovers visit a festival organised by the communist newspaper, pay a pointed tribute to Antonio Gramsci, and even in a moment of tenderness look forward to the classless society. But the political content of Berger's story is less striking than the way he presents it, with the central relationship charted in a series of black and white still photographs. The effect is surprisingly powerful, allowing the spectactor to linger on the images in a way that is impossible with moving film
10.30 Gurus.
● CHOICE: Achieving the symmetry beloved of documentary film-makers, Martin Goldsmith presents interwoven profiles of a Catholic missionary and an Indian spiritual healer, both of whom have done a culture swap. Born in north Wales, James Kimpton was a schoolteacher before he became a missionary and for the past 16 years has been working the poor of southern India. Born some 80 miles from Kimpton's base, Swami Satchinanda was invited to the United States during the hippy era to teach yoga, gave the opening address at the Woodstock rock festival and has stayed on to set up a string of yoga institutes. It must be for the viewer to decide whether Kimpton's mission to provide the destitute with the basics of water, housing and education is more worthy and necessary that Swami Satchinanda's attempts to persuade well-off Americans to renounce meat, alcohol and tobacco
11.30 A Week in Politics — Late Sitting. Extended late-night live programme covering all the week's parliamentary news. Topping the bill is Mr Heseltine's challenge to Mrs Thatcher. Plus a discussion on political biographies and what can be learnt from them. Ends at 12.55am

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Anglia News 10.40 Just the Job 11.10 Wideangle 11.40 Film: The Cartier Affair 1.30am Donahue 2.30 Santa Barbara 3.30 The Modern Jazz Fusion Concert 4.30-5.00 Wanted: Dead or Alive

BORDER
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Lookaround Thursday 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 7th Heaven 11.10 Prisoner Cell Block H 12.05am Blood & Orchids 1.50 Hodson Confidential 2.20 Video View 2.50 America's Top Ten 3.25 Night Beat 4.20 The Comedy Store 4.35-5.00 Jobfinder

CENTRAL
As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 Central News 10.40 Central Lobby 11.10 1st Night 11.40 Hooperman 12.10am Video View 12.40 The New Avengers 1.45 America's Top Ten 2.15 Supercross 2.45 The New Sessions 3.15 On the Live Side 3.45 Beyond 2000 4.15-5.00 Central Jobfinder '90

GRANADA
As London except: 6.30pm-7.00 Granada Tonight 7.30-8.00 The Granada Green Life Guide 10.40 What's NeW 11.10 Families 12.05am Blood and Orchids 1.50 Hodson Confidential 2.20 Video View 2.50 America's Top Ten 3.25 Night Beat 4.20 The Comedy Store 4.35-5.00 Jobfinder

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 7.30-8.00 The Good Neighbour Show 10.40 The West This Week 11.25 HTV Weekend Outlook 11.40 Film: Wild in the Country 1.45am The New Avengers 2.45 Quiz Night 3.15 Video View 3.40 The Concert 4.35-5.00 Jobfinder

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.00 Wales at Six 7.30-8.00 Wales & Westminster 10.40 Wales this Week 11.10-11.40 Alfred Hitchcock Presents

TSW
As London except: 3.25pm-3.55 Home and Away 5.10-5.40 Take the High Road 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Blockbuster 10.40 The List 11.10 Film: The War Wagon 1.00am Dick Tracy 1.35 Mystery Theatre 2.20 Video View 2.50 America's Top Ten 3.20 Night Beat 4.20 Comedy Store 4.35-5.00 TSW Jobfinder

TVS
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctors 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Facing South 11.10 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.05am Hodson Confidential 12.35 Jake and the Fatman 1.30 Film: The Manitou 3.20 Karting 3.50 Beyond 2000 4.45-5.00 Skiing

TYNE TEES
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Wild America 3.25-3.55 Santa Barbara 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Northern Eye 11.10 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.05am Blood and Orchids 1.50 Hodson Confidential 2.20 Video View 2.50 Top Ten 3.20 Night Beat 4.20 Comedy Store 4.35-5.00 Jobs

ULSTER
As London except: 1.50pm-2.20 Sons and Daughters 3.25-3.55 Glenroe 5.10-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.45 Counterpoint 11.15 The Write Off — St Thomas's School, Belfast 12.05am Blood & Orchids 1.50 Hodson Confidential 2.20 Video View 2.50 America's Top Ten 3.20 Night Beat 4.20 The Comedy Store 4.35-5.00 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters 10.40 Calendar Commentary 11.10 Film: The Dark 12.55am Stephen King's This Is Horror 1.20 Profiles (Five Star) 1.25 Matlock 2.25 America's Top Ten 2.55 CinemAttractions 3.25 Music Box 4.25-5.00 Jobfinder

S4C
Starts: 6.00am The Art of Landscape 6.30 C4 Daily 9.25 Yagolion 12.00 Special 12.10 Pobol Y Cwm 12.30 Newyddion 12.40 Slot Meithrin 1.00 Fifteen to One 1.30 Business Daily 2.00 Third Wave 2.45 Film: Beggar's Opera 4.30 Slot 23 5.15 Tonight with Jonathan Ross 5.45 Hero 6.00 Newyddion 6.10 Hero 6.40 Pobol Y Cwm 7.00 Par Mewn Pcil 7.30 Bwrw Misen 8.00 The Cosby Show 8.30 Newyddion 8.55 Y Byd Ar Bedwar 9.25 Fideo 9 10.05 Centrepoint 11.05 Sex Talk 11.50 Diwedd.

RTE 1
Starts: 12.30pm Look Here 1.00 News 1.45 Shakespeare in Perspective 2.10 Carson's Law 3.00 "Live" at Three 4.00 News followed by Emmerdale 4.30 Knots Landing 5.15 Masterworks 5.30 A Country Practice 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 Six-One 6.45 Garda Patrol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 Growing Freedom 8.00 Harold Lloyd 9.00 News 9.30 Today Tonight 10.10 Sophia and Constance 11.05 Booklines 11.30 News 11.40 Close.

NETWORK 2
Starts: 2.30pm Bosco 3.00 The Den 6.05 Jo-Maxi 6.30 Home and Away 7.00 Nuacht 7.08 Cursai 7.30 Head of the Class 8.00 News followed by The Encircled Sea 8.30 Marketplace 9.00 Murphy Brown 9.30 News followed by Falcon Crest 10.25 Nighthawks 11.10 News 11.35 Close.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 Newsline 6.00 The DJ Kat Show 8.45 Panel Pot Pourri 10.00 Here's Lucy 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 Sky by Day 12.00 True Confessions 12.30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 Another World 1.50 As the World Turns 2.45 Loving 3.15 Three's Company 3.45 The DJ Kat Show 5.00 Star Trek 6.00 Sale of the Century 6.30 Family Ties 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 In Living Color 8.00 The Simpsons 8.30 Wings 9.00 Wiseguy 10.00 Love at First Sight 10.30 The Hitchhiker 11.00 The Untouchables 12.00 Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
5.00am International Business Report 5.30 Newsline 6.00 International Business Report 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 International Business Report 11.30 The Frank Bough Interview 1.30pm NBC Today 2.30 Parliament Live 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 3.30 Parliament Live 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 Newsline 7.30 International Business Report 8.30 The FBI 9.30 Target 10.30 Newsline 11.30 NBC, News 12.30am Newsline 1.30 NBC News 2.30 The FBI 3.30 Beyond 2000 4.30 The FBI

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase
10.00 A Billion for Boris: A television set begins broadcasting a day ahead of time
12.00 Lassie Come Home (1943): The collie is sold by an impoverished family
2.00pm Norma Rae (1979): A single mother attempts to start a union in a small textile town
4.00 Lorca and the Outlaws (1985): A group of humans are enslaved to work as miners on an alien planet
6.00 Little Shop of Horrors (1986): Comedy-musical about a man-eating plant
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 The Morning After (1986): An alcoholic movie star (Jane Fonda) wakes up to find a murdered man in her bed
9.40 Projector
10.00 He Knows You're Alone (1980): Future brides are a killer's target
11.30 Love Child (1982): A young woman becomes pregnant while in prison and fights to have and keep her baby
1.15am Blue Jean Cop (1988): When a corrupt police officer is shot by a drug dealer, Peter Weller and Sam Elliott team up to solve the murder

EUROSPORT
5.00am As Sky One 8.30 Eurobics 9.00 Table Tennis 10.00 Ice Skating 12.00 Eurobics 12.30pm The World Games 1.30 Handball 2.30 Raft Racing 3.00 ATP Tennis 5.00 Equestrianism 6.00 Mobil One Motor Sport News 6.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Judo 7.30 Figure Skating 8.30 Four-Man Bobsleigh 9.30 Football 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Martial Arts Festival

SCREENSPORT
7.00am US College Football 9.00 Tenpin Bowling 10.00 Women's World Snooker Finals 12.00 National Horse Show 1.30pm High Five 2.00 Boxing from the Forum 3.30 Drag Racing NHRA 4.30 Sport en France 5.00 "Go" Dutch Motor Sports 6.00 Motor Sport 7.00 Motor Sport IMSA 9.00 Argentinean Football 11.00 American College Football

MTV
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE
10.00am Search for Tomorrow 10.25 Wok with Yan 10.55 Coffee Break 11.00 Simply Marvellous 11.25 Spain Spain Cookery 11.35 The Edge of Night 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50pm Style File 1.00 Great American Gameshows 2.10 Divorce Court 2.30 Remington Steele 3.30 Lifestyle Plus 3.40 Home Shop Lifestyle 4.05 Great American Gameshows 5.20 Tea Break 5.30 WKRP in Cincinnati 6.00 The Self-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 JSTV 10.00 The Self-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

BSB MOVIES
2.00pm The Movie Show
2.30 Flesh and Fantasy (1943, b/w): A trilogy of supernatural stories
4.20 Seven Sinners (1940): A cabaret singer falls in love with a naval officer
6.00 Future Past: A computer creates a strange character from the future
8.05 Memories of Me (1988): Following a heart attack, a heart surgeon attempts a reconciliation with his estranged father
10.00 Psycho III (1986): Psycho killer Norman returns to the Bates Motel
11.45 Dirty Laundry (1987): Drugs money is mistaken for washing
1.15am Hail Hail Rock 'n' Roll (1987): A sixtieth birthday tribute to Chuck Berry. Ends 3.30

BSB GALAXY
7.00am Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 7.30 Mix-It 8.30 Playabout 8.45 Mrs Pepperpot 9.00 Bewitched 9.30 Wife of the Week 10.00 The Movie Show 10.30 One False Move 11.00 The Debbie Reynolds Show 11.30 31 West 12.00 Time of Your Life 12.30pm The Bold and the Beautiful 1.00 Heartland 1.30 Police Story 2.30 The Young and the Restless 3.25 Sinbad Junior 3.30 Playabout 3.45 Mrs Pepperpot 4.00 Danger Bay 4.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 5.00 Mix-It 6.00 31 West 6.30 The Time of Your Life 7.00 Guys 'n' Dolls 7.30 One False Move 8.00 Hill Street Blues 9.00 Parker Lewis Can't Lose 9.30 Barney Miller 10.00 Porridge 10.30 Up Yer News! 10.45 Big Deal 11.45 The Movie Show 12.15am Secret Army 1.15 Corrigan and Womack 1.45 Up Yer News! 2.00 The Facts of Life 2.30 Living Dolls 3.00 The Young And Restless

BSB SPORT
1.25pm Sportsdesk 1.30 Racing 2.00 NFL Review 3.00 Live Tennis: ATP Tour World Championship 6.00 Sportsdesk 6.30 This Is the Sports Channel 7.30 Sportsdesk 8.00 Sports Channel Special: Boxing; Tennis — ATP Tour World Championship 12.00 Sportsdesk 12.30pm Inside the US PGA Tour 1.00 Racing 1.30am Sports Channel Special

BSB NOW
6.00am The Day Today 8.15 Talking To . . . 8.45 Plat du Jour 9.00 The Day Today 9.15 The Jane Wallace Show 10.00 Left, Right and Centre 10.30 Aerobicise 11.00 The Heart of the Dragon: Understanding 12.00 The Day Today 12.15pm European Business Today 12.45 VIP 1.00 The Countryside Show 1.30 You Can Do It 1.45 Parenting 2.00 Self-a-Vision 2.30 The Jane Wallace Show 3.15 Plat du Jour 3.30 On the House 4.00 Sex, Lies and Love 4.45 Take Six Cooks 5.15 Parenting 5.30 New Living 6.00 World Alive 6.30 The Countryside Show 7.00 First Edition 7.45 You Can Do It 8.00 Go Fishing 8.30 Health Circuit 9.00 Now Sir Robin 9.45 Now Listen 10.00 Your World 11.00 Left, Right and Centre 11.30 European Business Today 12.00 First Edison 12.45am VIP

BSB POWER
7.00am Twenty-one hours of music

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather and News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Handel (Concerto a due cori No 2 in F: English Concert under Trevor Pinnock), Arne (Cantata, The Morning: Parley of Instruments under Roy Goodman)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Ravel (La Vallée des cloches: Artur Rubinstein, piano), Dvořák (Scherzo capriccioso, Op 66: Cleveland Orchestra under Christoph von Dohnányi); Rachmaninov (Three Russian Songs, Op 41: Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy); Grieg (Lyric Suite, Op 54: Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra under Neeme Järvi)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Copland. Fanfare for the Common Man (Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy); Four Dance Episodes, Rodeo (English SO under William Boughton); Old American Songs, Set 1 (Peter Pears, tenor, Benjamin Britten, piano), Lincoln Portrait (Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy, with Adlai Stevenson, narrator)
9.35 Devices and Desires: A sequence exploring the art that conceals art, interspersed with miscellaneous musical erotica. With music by Strauss, Bach, Janáček, Haydn, Mahler, Reicha, Blacher, Schubert, Brahms, Webern and Monteverdi
11.15 Cardiff Festival 1990. BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Tadaaki Otaka, with Howard Shelley, piano, performs Strauss (Don Juan, Op 20), Mozart (Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor, K 491); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A, Op 92), incl 12.10pm Interval Reading
1.00pm News
1.05 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert: Live from Studio 1, Pebble Mill. The pianist Nikolai Demidenko performs Bach, arr Busoni and Liszt (Organ Preludes); Gluck, arr Sgambati (Dance from Orphée et Eurydice); Prokofiev (Visions fugitives, Op 22); Franck (Prelude, Chorale and Fugue)
2.10 The Opening of the Walls: With the aid of musical illustrations, Jan Smaczny explores Martinů's Czech roots. Includes the Czech Dances for two pianos, the second movement of the Second Symphony, and the folk cantata Kytice
3.40 Vermeer Quartet performs Haydn (Quartet in E flat, Op 33 No 2, Joke); Berg (Lyric Suite) (r)
4.35 Pièces héroïques: On instruments in the Cavaillé-Coll tradition, French organists play organ music by César Franck. Choral No 2 in B minor (Jean Guillou: St Eustache, Paris); Pastorale, Op 19 (Jeanne Demessieux: Madeleine Church, Paris); Fantaisie in A (Marcel Dupré: St Sulpice, Paris); Final, Op 21 (Jeanne Demessieux: Madeleine Church, Paris)
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure: Lyndon Jenkins explores the worlds of opera, opéra-comique and operetta
7.00 News
7.05 Third Ear: Finnish conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen talks to Michael Hall
7.30 Czech Philharmonic Orchestra under Gustav Kuhn performs Bruckner (Symphony No 8 in C minor)
8.55 Derek Lee Ragin Sings Schubert, with Julius Drake, piano. Meeres Stille, D 216; Nähe des Geliebten, D 162; Dem Unendlichen, D 291; An die Laute, D 905; Die Sterne, D 939; Rastlose Liebe, D 138; Der Jüngling und der Tod, D 545; Nachtstück, D 672
9.30 In the Shadow of Versailles: The Death of a Prince. In the final part of the memoirs of the Duc de Saint-Simon, he recalls the death of the Duc d'Orléans, Louis XIV's brother. Translated by Michel Petheram and read by Gerard Green (r)
9.50 Music in Our Time: Justin Connolly introduces the first of three programmes on the 1990 ISCM Festival in Oslo. Martin Butler (Piano Piano); Simon Holt (Danger of the Disappearance of Things); Oliver Knussen (Four Late Poems and an Epigram of Rainer Maria Rilke); Andrew Toovey (Ate). All first UK broadcasts. Andrew Ball and Julian Jacobson, pianos; Cuarteto Latinamericano; Siti Torjesen, soprano; Endymion Ensemble under Paul Webster
11.00 Dr Jazz: In the third of four programmes on Jelly Roll Morton, Charles Fox examines the period 1929-30 (r)
11.30 Composers of the Week: César Franck (Ce qu'on entend sur la montagne; S'il est un charmant gazon; Violin Sonata in A) (r)
12.30-12.35am News
1.00-2.25 Night School (FM only) (except in Scotland)

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM
5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day (s) 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30. News 7.55, 8.57 Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Punters (new series): Valerie Lighten talks to Susan Marling about the experience of home birth compared with having a child in hospital
9.45 Southern Voices (new series): Sex and the Ayatollahs. The first in a series of six talks about the Third World. An Iranian academic and feminist, Haleh Afshar, argues that the oppression of women in the name of Islamic fundamentalism is based on men's own insecurity and their fear of female sexuality
10.00 News; The Natural History Programme: A Future for the Coast? From the Dorset coast, Jessica Holm and Fergus Keeling examine the practicalities of coastal zone management
10.45 An Act of Worship (s)
11.00 News; Citizens (s)
11.25 Conversation Piece (new series): In the first of six programmes, Sue MacGregor is joined by the actor John Kani, associate director of the multiracial Market Theatre of Johannesburg
11.50 First Person: Series of talks by first-time broadcasters
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Dear Diary (s) (r) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Woman's Hour: Includes an interview with fashion designer Caroline Charles; a discussion on how newspapers deal with rape; and an item on methods of cooking quinces
3.00-4.00 Prime Minister's Questions (FM only)
3.00 News; The Flying Colours (LW only): In Barbara Machin's first play for radio, Moir Leslie plays Agnes, a child prodigy. At 16, she is taking her finals at Oxford, and to protect her from the unwanted attentions of a fellow student, her mother takes her to stay in the country. There, for the first time, her imagination runs free (s)
4.00 News
4.05 Bookshelf with Nigel Forde
4.30 Kaleidoscope: Includes reviews of the two new productions of *Macbeth*; Peter Llewellyn Davies talks about his work interpreting theatre and opera for the deaf; and there is a review of Donald Thompson's biography of novelist and playwright Henry Fielding (s)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Financial Report
6.30 The Sit-Crom (s) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Down the River: Cliff Morgan continues his journey down the River Tone in Somerset (s) (r)
8.00 Analysis: Woods and Trees. With interest rates, the money supply and the ERM all current issues, Dieter Helm examines whether we are using the right instruments to measure Britain's international competitiveness
8.45 Does He Take Sugar? The magazine for people with disabilities visits the Riverside Day Centre on the Isle of Wight
9.15 Kaleidoscope (broadcast at 4.30pm) (s)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight (s) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight (s)
10.45 A Book At Bedtime: The Landlord of "The Love-a-Duck", by Stacey Aumonier (1 of 2)
11.00 Burnt (new series):
● CHOICE: With a real-life political thriller unfolding this week, who needs fiction? However, this six-parter set in Wales has a head start with Dennis Waterman, television's *Minder*, in the driving seat, as Millois, a London layabout, drawn against his will into a campaign of terrorism and arson waged by a sinister movement called Soldiers of the Red Dragon. He finds himself in a pretty sticky patch at the end of this first episode, but I have a feeling he will survive. Writer Nigel Baldwin uses a narrator, played by Ray Smith, who has some of the best lines (s)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Gary King 6.30 Simon Mayo 9.00 Simon Bates 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Steve Wright in the Afternoon 5.30 News '90 6.00 Jakki Brambles 7.00 Top of the Pops (with BBC1) 7.30 Mark Goodier's Evening Session 9.00 Classic Documentary: The Best of Rod: The first of a three-part series featuring Rod Stewart in conversation with Janice Long (r) 10.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Bob Harris

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester 5.30 Chris Stuart 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Katie Boyle 11.00 Jimmy Young with Wogan 1.05pm David Jacobs 2.05 Gloria Hunniford 4.00 Michael Aspel 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The News Huddlines 7.30 Wally Whyton 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 Tom Mennard's Local Tales (r) 10.00 Ken Bruce 12.05am Jazz Parade 12.30 Just A Minute! (r) 1.00-4.00 Bill Rennells with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.00 Schools 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for toddlers 10.45 Walking through History 11.00 Sport 11.02 Citizens (as Radio 4) 11.25 The Health Show: Menstrual problems. Tel: phone 0345 909 693, incl 12.00 News; Sport 12.30pm Cult Heroes: Marilyn Monroe (r) 1.00 Sport 1.05 As Radio 3 2.00 Sport 2.05 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (broadcast at 10.25am) 2.30 World Service: International Call 3.00 Sport 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Sport 4.05 Frida Kahlo: Viva La Vida. The life and work of the Mexican artist 4.35 Five Aside 7.20 A Village by the Sea (part 4) 7.35 Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome. The first of a six-part adaptation 8.05 In the News 8.30 Formula Five 9.00 Jane Eyre (part 2) 9.30 Eastern Beat, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.08 World Service 11.58-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Morgenmagazin 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours: News Summary and Financial News 7.30 Perfectly Franck 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Good Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News; Sports Roundup 9.45 Network UK 10.01 Assignment 10.30 Smash of the Day 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 The Farming World 11.30 Midi Magazine 12.00 Newsreel 12.15pm Multitrack 2 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours; News Summary and Financial News 1.30 Network UK 1.45 Jazz Now and Then 2.00 News; Outlook 2.30 Off the Shelf: Catch 22 2.45 Recording of the Week 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.09 Commentary 5.15 The World Today 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 The World Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Meridian 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 Global Concerns 9.30 What do Muslims believe? 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.05 Commentary 11.10 Financial News 11.15 Music Reviews 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am Best on Record 1.01 Outlook 1.25 Financial News 1.30 Jazz Now and Then 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Seven Seas 2.30 Appointment with Venus 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 The World Today 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 The World Today 4.45 News and Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE KENNETH GOSLING

Recession is nationwide CBI confirms

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ALL regions are now in recession, with every area of the country reporting falling output and orders and forecasting further job losses.

The regional results of the CBI's Industrial Trends Survey, published yesterday, show a marked turnround from the last regional report three months ago, when five of the 11 economic regions were expecting rising production. Then, East Anglia, Scotland, the North, the East Midlands and Northern Ireland were all forcasting rising output.

All regions report a decline in new orders in the past four months and expect the trend to continue. The recessionary impact of the decline is not uniform, with the South East and the West Midlands among the worst hit regions, now joined by East Anglia, which has seen its economic performance fall markedly since the last survey.

Optimism is now declining all round, with sharp falls in East Anglia, where a balance of 66 per cent of businesses surveyed believe the overall economic position will worsen. In Scotland the balance is 37 per cent and, in Northern Ireland and the East Midlands, the figure is 33 per cent.

The regional figures are breakdowns of the national trends survey, which saw the largest drop in business confidence for ten years, and prompted the CBI both to declare a recession and to call for a further reduction in interest rates.

Andrew Sentance, the CBI's economic director, said the principal reasons for the regional uniformity were weakened export prospects caused by Gulf uncertainty, widespread stock reductions by companies and further declines in investment spending and intentions.

Every region reports an acceleration in average unit costs, with sharp increases expected in East Anglia and Yorkshire and Humberside.

● The Centre for Dispute Resolution was launched at the CBI in London yesterday. It aims to use American techniques for settling commercial business disputes without the expense and delay of court hearings.

Insurers plunge as claims rise

By ANGELA MACKAY

INCREASED claims and competition, combined with slowing economic activity, continued to depress Commercial Union and General Accident, the composite insurers, with the latter reporting a bigger than expected pre-tax loss of £73.3 million for the nine months to end-September, compared with a profit of £137 million in the same period last year.

As a result, General Accident will raise its rates for motor, home and commercial property insurance. The company said its private car rates would rise in January and indicated that homeowners' rates would go up 10 per cent early next year while commercial property rates were also being increased.

Commercial Union reported a sharp fall in pre-tax profits for the nine months from £110.3 million to £27.2 million, mainly as a result of underwriting losses caused by storms in January and February. CU is expected to announced premium increases soon.

"While the profit and loss accounts paint a bleak picture, they just start to tell the story," said David Hudson, composite insurance analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

"The worst things are found in the balance sheet where shareholders' funds have shrunk alarmingly, which raises the question why the companies are trading at such a big premium to assets." Mr Hudson said that at the beginning of the year, CU's shareholders' funds stood at £1.71 billion compared with £1.2 billion at the end of September. General Accident funds plunged from £2.55 billion to £1.5 billion.

Reflecting fall in world markets: Tony Brend, chief executive at Commercial Union

CU shares dropped 12p to 445p and General Accident fell 3p to 434p.

Tony Brend, the CU chief executive, said the drop in shareholders' funds reflected the fall in worldwide stock markets and overseas currency values compared with sterling.

"The result reflected a continuation of the downward trend in our UK earnings due to increased subsidence claims, a greater incidence of large claims and a continued high level of competition for non-life business," he added.

General Accident said its third-quarter British underwriting loss of £88 million (£77 million loss) was due principally to house subsidence, which cost £18 million, and a continued depression in the motor insurance market.

CU's underwriting loss of £92.2 million, compared with a profit of £0.4 million in the first nine months of last year, was due mainly to the two storms in the first quarter, which cost £40 million, the cost of subsidence claims and the effects of competition.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Gooding expansion will create 500 jobs

AN ANGLO-JAPANESE venture to manufacture electrical parts for domestic appliances and office machinery, such as photocopiers, will give a boost for jobs in South Wales.

Gooding Sanken, which began making switch mode power supply units in South Wales in June, is planning an expansion which will mean 500 new jobs. The company is 51 per cent owned by Gooding Group, a private company controlled by Alf Gooding, the Welsh entrepreneur. The other shares are held by Sanken Electric Company of Japan, which supplies the technology. Gooding Sanken already employs 100 people in South Wales. It plans to take a new 75,000 square foot factory in Cynon Valley, and increase output to 150,000 units a year by 1993.

Rights issue at J. England

J. ENGLAND, the food distribution group, is restructuring its balance sheet with a two for one rights issue at 25p, which will raise £2.9 million. The issue, which will involve creating 12.2 million new shares, will reduce bank borrowings and be used to fund additional working capital requirements. Shares in the group fell 1p to 24p.

Clearmark gives warning

CLEARMARK Group, the USM-quoted leisure to publishing group, says trading has been difficult since September and it expects "a major shortfall" against the year-end expectation. About 80 per cent of its business is done around Christmas. Clearmark said it has its bankers' support and that the final stage of a restructuring will begin this week.

Hadleigh rises 67%

INTERIM pre-tax profits at Hadleigh Industries Group, the storage tank to trailer manufacturer, advanced by 67 per cent to £1.1 million to end-September. Group turnover rose to £17.5 million (£8.94 million).

Figures benefited from contributions from Ripple, the jewellery display cabinet company bought in April, and Lynton, the lightweight trailer maker acquired last December. The two companies made a combined contribution of £570,000 to operating profits with £5.6 million turnover. Earnings per share are 10.4p (9.1p). The interim dividend is 2.2p (2p).

Setback for Arthur Shaw

THE decline in building activity has taken its toll at Arthur Shaw, the USM window fittings group. Pre-tax profits fell from £559,000 to £235,000 in the half year to end-September on turnover slightly down from £6.49 million to £6.36 million. Earnings per share declined from 4.7p to 2.0p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 1.3p.

Dividend cut at Five Oaks

FIVE Oaks Investments, the property group, has cut its final dividend from 1p to 0.4p after reporting pre-tax profits down from an adjusted £4.93 million to £657,000 for the year to end-June. This reduces the total from 1.6p to 1p. Turnover dropped from £17.5 million to £9.4 million and fully diluted earnings per share from 8.41p to 3.13p.

Principal Hotels dips

PRINCIPAL Hotels Group has passed its final dividend after pre-tax profits slipped from £1.46 million to £1.11 million in the year to end-June. The disposal of Douglas Le Mare and the writing-down of assets within the financial services division, with provisions on non-hotel properties and reorganisation expenses, led to extraordinary losses of £6.97 million. There is no final dividend, making a total of 1p (2p).

Earnings per share fell from 5.3p to 3.3p. The board plans to recommend total dividends of at least 1p for the current year if profits are maintained.

Dunhill poised for acquisitions

By COLIN CAMPBELL

DUNHILL Holdings, the luxury goods group that six months ago boasted net cash of £117.7 million, believes potential takeover targets are coming within its sights.

Sior Pendle, managing director, said: "We have waited a long time for asking prices of branded goods groups to come down to more sensible levels, and the time looks like fast approaching."

Dunhill, where Rothmans International has a 55.18 per cent stake, reported pre-tax profits up from £25.7 million to £33.6 million for the six months ended September 30. Turnover, however, fell from £122.5 million to £118.6 million. The interim divided rises from 2p to 2.6p a share, covered 4.8 times by net earnings of 12.4p a share.

Investment income continued to rise on the back of stronger cash balances, though no details are given at the interim stage. Dunhill said trading in its various markets was mixed, but as long as the world economic outlook and the situation in the Gulf did not deteriorate, it should be a good second half.

CE Heath slips to £10.2m

By OUR CITY STAFF

CE HEATH, the insurance broker, says interim pre-tax profits to September 30 fell from £10.6 million to £10.2 million, but the group indicates that there should be a stronger profits flow in the second half.

Broking expenses increased from £27.5 million to £34.5 million, while worldwide brokerage income rose from £26.2 million to £31.7 million. There was an underwriting profit of £6.5 million (£6.8 million). Investment and other income rose from £14.8 million to £16.4 million.

Group turnover in the six months was £61.2 million compared with £49.5 million last time.

Richard Fielding, the chairman, believes the turning point has been reached where insurance and reinsurance rates will start to harden. However, while economic conditions have not so far had a material impact on results at the computer services division, sales are being held back by a fall in business confidence.

CE Heath is maintaining the interim dividend at 7.5p a share. The shares traded 6p lower at 421p.

The company recently confirmed it was in talks with Johnson and Higgins, America's third largest broker, with a view to the Americans taking a stake in Heath. Johnson and Higgins is also said to be talking to other British insurance broking groups.

Heath said there had been no fresh developments on which it could comment.

ACT tops £5m in first half

ACT Group, the former computer hardware company which has been transformed into a software group following May's £39 million disposal of Apricot Computers' hardware business to Mitsubishi Electric, reports a surge in half-year profits. Pre-tax profits jumped from £2.02 million to £5.36 million in the six months to end-September.

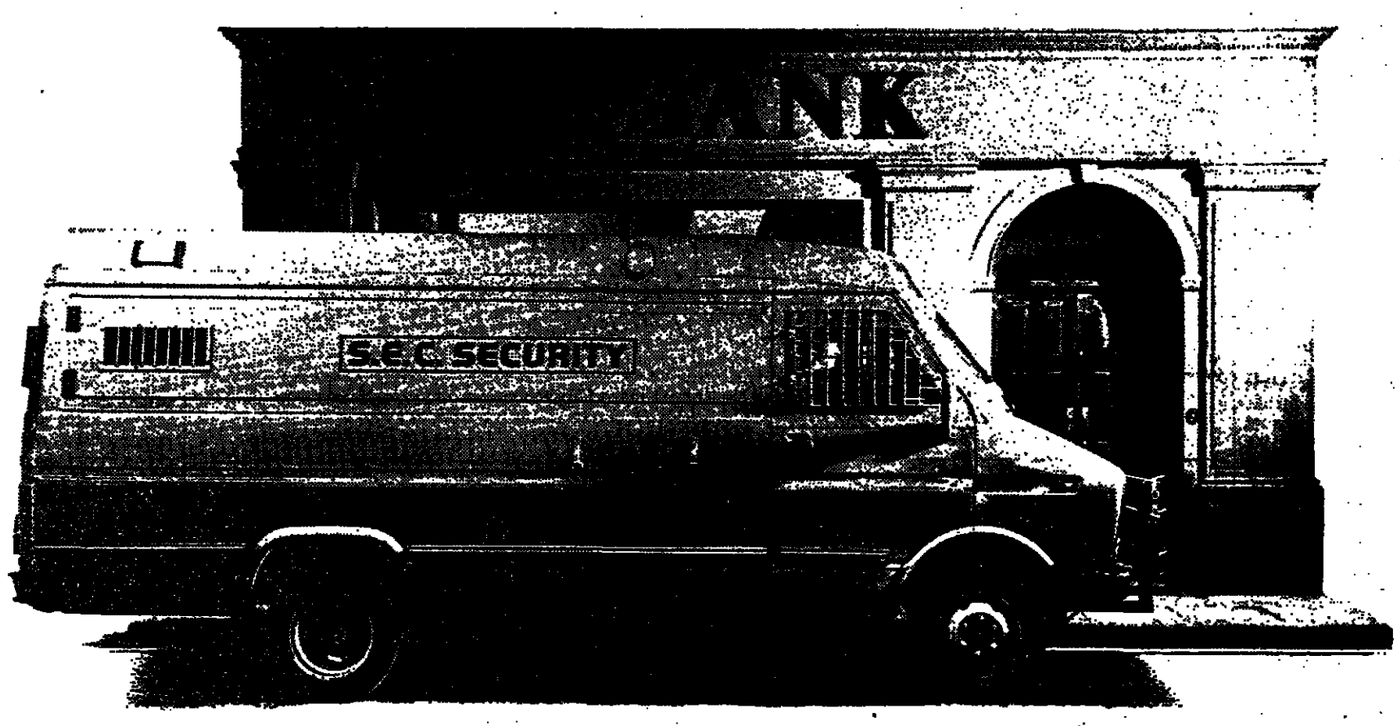
Turnover slipped from £56.4 million to £46.2 million due to the disposal of the hardware division. Shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 1.25p (0.75p) as well as a 5p special dividend, making a total of 6.25p for the six-month period. Earnings per share jumped from 1.86p to 4.01p. The disposal of the Apricot hardware division led to an extraordinary credit of £14.2 million.

Roger Foster, ACT's chairman, said: "We're extremely cash-strong." The company is sitting on a cash mountain of about £25 million, which will be used for acquisitions in the longer term.

Whitbread asset value declines

The net asset value at Whitbread Investment Company, the investment trust specialising in brewers, slipped to 568.1p a share at end-September compared with 661.2p a year earlier.

Pre-tax revenue advanced from £5.84 million to £7 million in the six months to end-September. Earnings per share rose from 6.93p to 8.32p and the interim dividend is 3.95p (3.35p).



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Company Name _____

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(PLEASE TICK BOX) Turnover: £0 – £250,000 ☐ £250,000 – £500,000 ☐ £500,000 + ☐

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS

City Editor
John Bell

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15 1990

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● LAW 37
● SPORT 38-42

Pound slumps as markets react to Heseltine challenge

Major: no reaction to his recession speech

By Anatole Kaletsky
Economics Editor

STERLING fell sharply to its lowest level against the mark since midsummer as investors responded with a mixture of dismay and disbelief to Michael Heseltine's challenge against Margaret Thatcher. However, trading volumes remained surprisingly subdued and analysts in London and overseas said that the financial markets had not yet discounted a serious possibility that Mrs Thatcher might cease to be prime minister within the next few weeks. There was no reacton to a Commons statement by John Major, the Chancellor, confirming his comment that the economy was probably in recession.

The pound declined by two pfennigs and half a cent to DM2.8850 and $1.9605, after falling decisively below DM2.90 shortly before Mr Heseltine made his announcement yesterday morning. Share and bond prices were also weak, but traded within fairly narrow ranges. The FT-SE 100 index ended only 10 points down at 2,046.0 and gilt-edged prices fell by between ⅛ and ¼ points.

Several analysts predicted that there would be worse to come as the seriousness of Mr Heseltine's challenge sank in among overseas investors. The Japanese in particular were likely to turn into heavy sellers of sterling assets if Mrs Thatcher was defeated, they predicted. "As far as the Japanese are concerned, Margaret Thatcher is Britain," said Jim O'Neill, chief economist at Swiss Bank Corporation. "Few investors outside Europe know anything about Heseltine or understand this threat. There could be a bit of panic as the reality sinks in."

David Hale, chief economist at Kemper Financial Services, a big money management firm based in Chicago, said: "The fall in the pound so far has simply been a reflection of Thatcher's difficulties in managing the British economy. Nobody is discounting that she might not be prime minister by next week. The chances are that Heseltine would not command the respect of the markets, at least at first. He is almost unknown among investors. If he is remembered, it is as someone who was on the weak side during all the difficult decisions Thatcher had to take in the 1980s."

Mr Hale and other analysts noted that the pound's decline in the past few days may have been caused less by political factors than by disillusionment with the exchange rate guarantees supposedly provided by the ERM.

Until last week, DM2.88 was widely considered to be the effective ERM floor for sterling, because this level marked the intervention point against the Spanish peseta. During the past few days, however, the peseta has started falling against the mark and this has reduced sterling's effective floor to below DM2.85. "The market is gradually realising that the ERM floor is made of elastic. The pound has dragged the peseta down with it and this could continue all the way down to DM2.7780," Peter Spencer, chief UK economist at Shearson Lehman, said.

Adding to the concern about sterling has been a spate of rumours about German pressure for a realignment of ERM exchange rates.

Richard Medley, a Washington investment manager and political consultant, said that the German Bundesbank was making it clear that it wanted to revalue the mark, especially against high-inflation ERM currencies like sterling, the lira and the peseta.

At present the concern about German policies and the near-certainty of another interest rate cut in America on Friday is dominating the markets' attention. But by next week, he predicted, the challenge to Mrs Thatcher "is going to take centre stage".

Young denies Rover trade-off

By Sheila Gunn
Political Reporter

LORD Young of Graffham, the former trade secretary, strongly denied offering special treatment to future applications for state aid by British Aerospace in exchange for buying the Rover car group.

He dismissed suggestions by members of the Commons trade committee that a letter from his office promising BAe applications would be "sympathetically considered" proved there was a trade-off between the sale and future government grants.

The letter, signed on his behalf, came to light in July as the committee was finishing its report on the hidden "sweeteners" offered to BAe when buying Rover. The letter led the MPs to recall Lord Young and Professor Roland Smith, BAe's chairman. Dated July 14, 1988, when BAe was threatening to back out of the sale, it stated that buying Rover would not prevent the company from receiving government funds for other projects. The letter added: ". . . the government would take fully into account not simply the overall financial position of British Aerospace but also the demands placed upon it by the performance and obligations of the Rover Group businesses".

Lord Young told the committee: "What this letter does is repeat the law of the land. It gives comfort to BAe that they will not be denied help in applying for launch aid for the air frame industry."

BAe is challenging a European Commission ruling that over £44 million in illegal sweeteners be repaid by the group.

Professor Smith told the committee there was no suggestion of a trade-off. His concern had been that the original terms of the sale would constrain BAe in applying for state aid for other projects. "We needed this sort of comment to be made for the fact that we had taken a very high-risk decision."

The committee heard that letters from the trade department to BAe about the deal had no reference numbers. The letter discussing sympathetic treatment had to be obtained from BAe because the DTI was unable to produce its copy.

Later, Douglas Hoyle, senior Labour member on the committee, called for Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, to make clear whether he would feel obliged to "treat sympathetically" any applications for grants from BAe.

BA shares hit all-time low after warning

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

SHARES in British Airways fell to an all-time low after Lord King, the chairman, warned shareholders that the airline did not expect to make profits in the seasonally weak second half because of the rise in fuel costs and effects of recession.

Despite a strong first-half performance, much better than other international airlines, BA shares dropped to 127p at one point, just 2p above their issue price in February 1987. They recovered to 131p later, down 7p on the day.

Unexpectedly, the interim dividend was left unchanged at 2.8p from earnings up 35 per cent to 31.5p per share.

Profits for the first six months to end-September were better than expected, rising 24 per cent to £320 million before tax, on sales up 8 per cent to £2.75 billion. Operating profit was slightly lower but BA made £43 million from aircraft and other asset sales, compared with £6 million a year ago.

In the second quarter, however, the squeeze was intensified by the rise in oil prices in August, turnover was only 4.6 per cent up on the year before and pre-tax profits were stationary.

Prices are being progressively raised to recover the higher fuel costs but demand has come under pressure on the Atlantic, the Middle East and domestic routes. Customers are also avoiding the price rises by trading down from Concorde and first class seats to cheaper classes.

The number of airline passengers grew by about 8 per cent in the first half although business was not so good after the invasion of Kuwait, which affected less than two months of trading. BA flew 12.3 per cent more passenger kilometres, well ahead of the industry average, but demand has fallen off rapidly in the past few weeks, usually the worst in the airline calendar, and is now running only about 3 per cent ahead of last year.

BA has bought about a quarter of its fuel forward until the financial year end in March. It will then be exposed to the full effect of increased costs. The price of aviation fuel has risen more steeply than crude oil, trebling at its highest and doubling on average, mainly due to extra military flying and stockpiling. BA also has one aircraft stranded in Kuwait along with some passengers and crew and is not insured against loss of income.

Depending on future fuel price changes, however, Lord King said: "I would not expect to make any significant loss or, indeed, any loss at all" in the second half. BA has embarked on a series of cost-cutting programmes but Lord King emphasised that BA saw the industry's slump as a short-term problem that the company was much better placed to withstand than most of its competitors.

He said: "At this stage, we do not expect to follow the lead of some of our competitors in announcing large-scale redundancies, the sale of prime routes, the cancellation or aircraft orders or auctioning of key assets."

The winter half of the year is normally much less profitable. BA made £86 million pre-tax in the second half of 1989-90. If BA broke even in the second half, its annual profits would fall only 7 per cent.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, said that the possible sale of Pan American's Atlantic routes to United Airlines, BA's former partner, would not have a dramatic effect on BA because only 2 per cent of its transatlantic traffic was generated through the agreement.

Lord King said BA would not be deflected from its strategy of global expansion by short-term trading problems. Negotiations are going on to establish Air Russia as a joint venture. BA is still resisting concessions to European Community competition authorities over its link with Sabena.

Comment, page 31

Fans of Frank

A last-minute rush has brought the number of people registering to buy shares in the 12 electricity distribution companies in England and Wales to more than 7 million. The prices of the 12 will be announced on Wednesday.

Comment, page 31

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9620 (–0.0015)
German mark
2.8861 (–0.0189)
Exchange index
93.7 (–0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1583.2 (–10.4)
FT-SE 100
2046.0 (–10.0)
New York Dow Jones
2557.43 (+22.03)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
23937.44 (–36.23)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 13⅞-13 13/16%
3-month eligible bills: 13 11/32-13 9/32%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 9%*
3-month Treasury Bills 7.07-7.05%*
30-year bonds 102 5/32-102 7/32*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9620	£: $1.9615*
£: DM2.8861	$: DM1.4713*
£: SwFr2.4446	$: SwFr1.2458*
£: FFr9.7374	$: FFr4.9615*
£: Yen254.37	$: Yen129.63*
£: Index:93.7	$: Index:80.1
ECU £0.706759	SDR £0.736550
£: ECU1.414909	£: SDR1.357681

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $383.45 pm-$383.90
close $384.00-384.50 (£195.75-196.25)
New York:
Comex $383.90-384.40*

NORTH SEA OIL

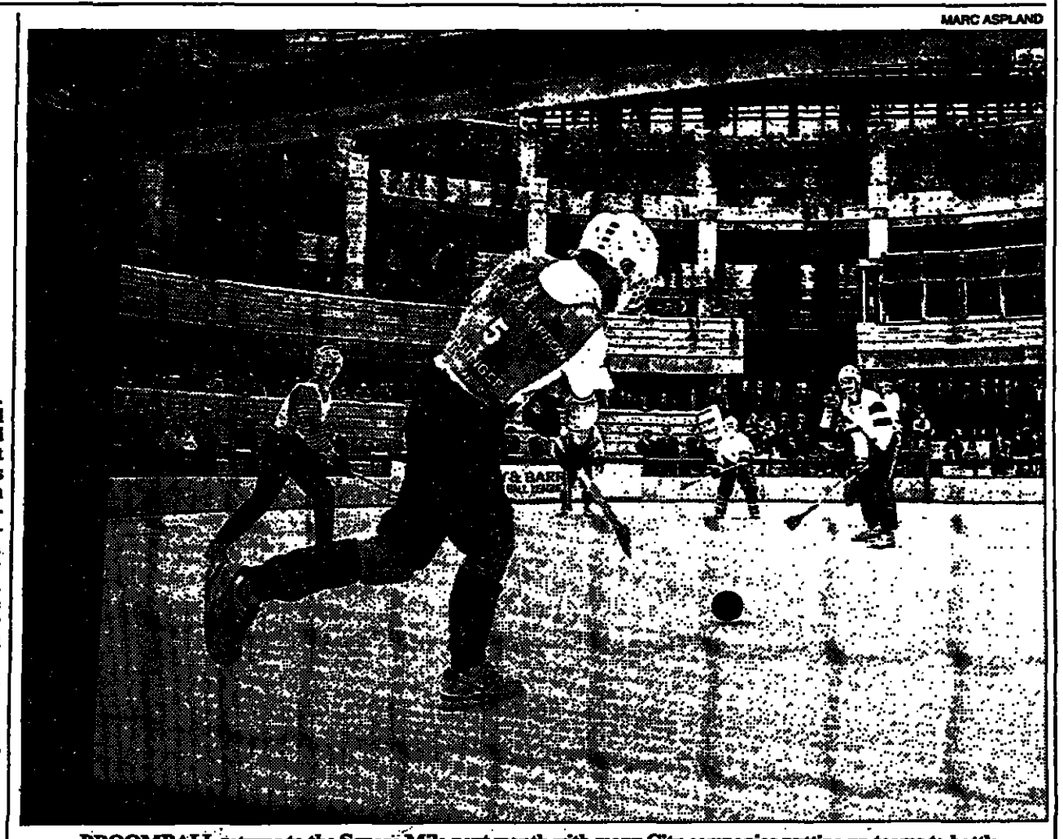
Brent (Dec) ..... $32.40 bbl ($32.75)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.625	2.475
Austria Sch	21.30	20.00
Belgium Fr	62.35	58.35
Canada $	2.377	2.247
Denmark Kr	11.63	10.93
Finland Mkk	7.35	6.90
France Fr	10.18	9.58
Germany Dm	3.02	2.83
Greece Dr	317.00	297.00
Hong Kong $	15.77	14.97
Ireland Pt	1.13	1.06
Italy Lira	2270	2135
Japan Yen	267.50	252.50
Netherlands Gld	3.39	3.19
Norway Kr	11.84	11.14
Portugal Esc	266.50	250.50
South Africa Rd	5.00	4.50
Spain Pta	191.00	179.00
Sweden Kr	11.31	10.67
Switzerland Fr	2.655	2.395
Turkey Lira	5700	5300
USA $	2.04	1.94
Yugoslavia Dnr	27.00	20.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.9 (September)

MARC ASPLAND



BROOMBALL returns to the Square Mile next month with many City companies putting up teams to battle at the open air ice rink at the Broadgate development. Helmeted players spend ten minutes slipping and sliding over the ice in teams of four, hitting a ball with a broom. The lucky winners will receive the Taittinger Trophy.

Thorn sells most lamp interests in £69m deal

By Michael Tate
Deputy City Editor

THORN EMI is selling the bulk of its loss-making lamp operations to General Electric, of America, in a deal that could bring in £69 million.

Thorn will transfer most of its European light source interests to a new company in which GE will have a 51 per cent stake, and management control, and Thorn will hold the remaining 49 per cent.

After three years, GE will acquire Thorn's minority holding in the company.

News of the deal accompanied interim results from Thorn, showing a fall in pre-tax profits to £96.2 million (£108.1 million).

Group basic earnings per share slipped to 20.1p (23p), but the interim dividend is up to 9p (8.5p). Tempus, page 31

Davy chief goes

ROGER Kingdon has resigned as chief executive of Davy, the engineering contractor, amid growing institutional concern about the company's future. He is being replaced by Patrick McTighe, deputy chief executive.

The shake-up fuelled speculation that the firm is set to announce a sharp fall in interim profits from £28 million before tax. Shares in Davy fell an additional 4p to 69p, capitalising the company at less than £82 million, compared with £277 million just five months ago.

Comment, page 31

Boots jewel glows with health

By Gillian Bowditch

BOOTS the Chemist, the jewel in the crown of The Boots Company, is weathering the recession better than nearly any other chain in the high street. The business, which boosted trading profits by 40.2 per cent to £88 million in the six months to end-September, is expecting to hold up well this Christmas.

Sir James Blyth, Boots' chief executive, said Christmas would be tough but he expects Boots to take more than its fair share of the spending. Boots' total pre-tax profits were £162 million, up 1.1 per cent. Sales rose 21.7 per cent to £1.73 billion and trading profits 26.3 per cent to £188 million.

The interest charge more than doubled to £26.8 million because of the £900 million acquisition of Ward White last year. Earnings per share fell 4.3 per cent to 11.2p but the interim dividend goes up 6.5 per cent to 4.1p. The Ward White acquisition produced disappointing results.

However, Sir James believed that, in the longer term, the deal would prove to be a good one for Boots. Shares in Boots rose 3p to 316p.

Tempus, page 31

VSEL warning hints at big job losses at yard

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BIG job losses at Britain's biggest warship building yard at Barrow-in-Furness were foreshadowed after VSEL, the yard's owner, gave warning of extraordinary costs coming at the year end.

Noel Davies, chief executive, said details of the cutbacks would not be available yet, but one analyst predicted that 2,000 to 3,000 jobs could be lost from the 13,000-strong workforce by the end of next year.

VSEL's restructuring will result from the review of defence strategy this year. The company has already put its Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead, where 2,000 people work, up for sale and it is optimistic about finding a buyer. VSEL lifted pre-tax interim profits by 36 per cent to £16.5 million, on near-static sales of £247.9 million to end-September. The order for a third £500 million Trident nuclear missile submarine, placed on Wednesday lifts the order book to £3.5 billion. Talks will begin soon over the contract for the final boat in the series.

The Barrow yard's workload is expected to decline rapidly as other warships under construction are completed. Mr Davies said that VSEL, which has no borrowings, will be able to fund the costs of the run-down from cash flow. It has high hopes of export orders for its AS90 self-propelled 155mm howitzer. The shares, up 16p yesterday to 370p, sell at just 4.1 years' prospective earnings on a likely yield of 7.9 per cent.

Land Secs beats gloom with £102m

LAND Securities, Britain's biggest property company, has confounded the gloom in the property market with an interim rise in pre-tax profits from £80.8 million to £102.7 million to end-September.

The interim dividend is raised to 5.5p (4.75p). Shareholders were told not to expect a similar increase in the second half. Pre-tax profits are not expected to differ materially in the second half from those earned in the first half.

The first-half jump came after a rise in rental income to £162.3 million (£130.9 million). Earnings per share increased to 13.24p (10.42p). Land Securities will announce the results of the latest review of its portfolio at the financial year's end. Most analysts expect some fall from the 879p announced in May.

Almost all Land Securities' completed office developments are now fully let.

Tempus, page 31

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T 16/11

Japanese go green with the prince

From Joe Joseph in Tokyo

WHILE the Princess of Wales spoke to welders and wheel-changers at a Honda car factory in the suburbs of Tokyo, the Prince of Wales spent his 42nd birthday trying to persuade the leaders of Japanese boardrooms that the world faced doom unless capitalists started caring for it more.

Urging executives from companies such as Sony, Nissan, Toyota, and Mitsubishi to search their souls as well as their balance sheets, he said: "We have failed, in a sense, to renew the relationship between our creator, creation itself and our contract with life. In fact, we, more than any previous generations, have gone in some cases to the extremes of proclaiming that there is no creator with whom to have a relationship.

"We tend to behave as if all that needs to be done is for rational man to go on being more and more rational. There is only a short step from this approach, I think, to the conviction that our salvation lies exclusively in technology.

"Our planet is endangered and somehow we have to recover our emotions about nature and the earth ... Somehow we have to rediscover, as it were, the concept of the knight in search of a life of service and value."

It was the first time that a member of a royal family had addressed senior members of the Keidanren, Japan's CBI, but not the first time that Japanese businessmen had been reminded of their sometimes haphazard concern for the environment. The prince's aim was to beat the drum for the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, a discussion group formed in February in Charleston, South Carolina, with the goal of "a new deal where capitalism takes on a more human expression". The meeting drew more than 100 of the world's leading businessmen, from Iain Vallance, chairman of British Telecom, to T Boone Pickens, the Texan oilman. But the prince has been aware that, without Japanese involvement, the discussion group would lack some powerful voices.

The Keidanren said yesterday that they, too, would nudge their members to join. Young Japanese business leaders also agreed to a proposal by the prince to help entrepreneurs in eastern Europe.

The prince argued for companies to be good corporate citizens because "the activities of businesses in sensitive areas beyond their national shores, such as in the tropical rain forests, in the oceans and in the developing countries, have become a legitimate concern, whether people like it or not, to stakeholders — in other words, a company's customers, employees, suppliers and local communities, as well as financial shareholders — everywhere".

War risk lifts Ultramar

By Martin Barrow

ULTRAMAR, the diversified oil and gas group, has reported strong growth in third quarter earnings, reflecting high levels of refining margins in North America triggered by the threat of war in the Gulf.

In the three months to the end of September net profits almost trebled from £15.5 million to £44.6 million, while earnings rose from 4.2p a share to 12.1p.

Net profits for the first nine months of the year were £78.9 million, against £76.2 million, despite the adverse effects of currency movements that masked a 20 per cent increase in underlying dollar earnings. Earnings per share rose from 20.8p to 21.4p. On a replacement cost basis, which removes the financial impact of stockholdings, profits rose from £21.7 million to £32.9 million during the third quarter and from £67.2 million to £75.7 million during the first nine months.

Most of the increase in third quarter profits was attributed to downstream activities, which doubled earnings to £52.5 million. Consumer prices in eastern Canada and California were slow to reflect the rise in international prices but higher refinery throughputs in Quebec and Wilmington and strong Californian wholesale margins more than offset the squeeze on retail operations.

Profits from upstream activities increased from £8.1 million to £10 million after an increase in gas production from 467.8 million cubic feet of gas per day to a record 494.6 million. Third quarter volumes of liquefied natural gas from the Botang plant in Indonesia set a record, reflecting the build-up of deliveries to Taiwan and additional sales to Japan.

John Darby, the chairman, said that during the fourth quarter refining margins in California were unlikely to repeat record third quarter levels.

GA

General Accident

NINE-MONTHS' RESULTS

The results of the General Accident Group for the nine months ended 30th September 1990, estimated and unaudited, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1989, which are restated at 31st December 1989 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1989.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not usually provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	9 Months to 30.9.90 Estimate £ millions	9 Months to 30.9.89 Estimate £ millions	Year 1989 Actual £ millions
Premium Income			
General Business	2,336.5	2,333.6	3,100.2
Long Term Business	300.1	278.2	381.3
	2,636.6	2,611.8	3,481.5
Investment Income	314.1	340.9	462.7
NZI Bank Result	(10.1)	(41.0)	(47.6)
Estate Agency Result	(14.8)	(12.6)	(20.5)
Underwriting –			
General Business Result	(311.1)	(125.9)	(203.8)
Long Term Business Profits	14.3	15.5	26.9
	(7.6)	176.9	217.7
Less Interest on Loans	65.7	39.8	64.5
U.K. Employee Profit Sharing Scheme	–	–	6.2
Profit (Loss) before Taxation	(73.3)	137.1	147.0
Taxation – U.K. and Overseas	(18.1)	40.9	32.1
Profit (Loss) after Taxation	(55.2)	96.2	114.9
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	(2.5)	(13.4)	(13.7)
	(52.7)	109.6	128.6
Long Term Business Profits – GA Life 1988 Valuation	–	–	9.5
Net Profit (Loss) attributable to Shareholders	(52.7)	109.6	138.1
Earnings per Ordinary Share	(12.3p)	26.0p	32.6p
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	$1.87	$1.61	$1.61
Canada	$2.16	$1.87	$1.87

Notes
(1) Under a Scheme of Arrangement sanctioned by the Court of Session under Section 425 of The Companies Act 1985 and effective on 5th July, 1990 the shareholders of General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation plc received for each share then held, two new shares of 25p each fully paid in General Accident plc.
(2) Investment Income excludes £8.2m (1989 £9.4m) representing amortisation of U.S. deep discount bonds which under the U.S.A. accounting conventions would be credited to earnings.
(3) The NZI Bank result includes gains and losses both realised and unrealised on investments held for trading purposes.
(4) The transfer of shareholders' profit from the long term business fund is stated gross of taxation and on a current year basis.

ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY OF GENERAL BUSINESS PREMIUM INCOME AND UNDERWRITING RESULT

	9 months to 30.9.90 Premium Income £m	9 months to 30.9.90 Underwriting Result £m	9 months to 30.9.89 Premium Income £m	9 months to 30.9.89 Underwriting Result £m
U.K.	877.9	(130.0)	784.1	25.5
U.S.A.	648.3	(63.4)	691.2	(70.2)
EEC other than U.K.	126.5	(35.2)	132.1	(20.3)
Canada	271.7	(0.7)	283.1	(6.3)
Pacific	246.7	(39.1)	268.6	(10.6)
Other Overseas	76.7	(13.6)	74.8	(1.1)
London Market Business incl. Internal Reins.	88.7	(29.1)	99.7	(42.9)
	2,336.5	(311.1)	2,333.6	(125.9)

Net written premiums increased in sterling terms by 0.1% while investment income fell by 7.9%. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increase in premiums was 8.4% and the reduction in investment income, which continued to reflect the impact on cash flow of higher claims costs, was 1.1%.

In the third quarter there was a worldwide underwriting loss of £88.0m [1989 £77.0m loss] with losses in the United Kingdom of £35.5m [1989 £6.4m profit] and in the United States of £18.2m [1989 £36.3m loss]. Elsewhere there were aggregate underwiting losses of £34.3m [1989 £47.1m loss]. The pre-tax loss for the quarter amounted to £5.4m [1989 £15.1m profit].

For the nine months there was an underwriting loss of £130.0m [1989 £25.5m profit] in the UK. The Homeowners' account produced a loss of £28.0m [1989 £10.6m profit] having been adversely affected by the cost of severe weather in the first quarter and by the cost of subsidence claims particularly in the third quarter. The Commercial Property account continued to suffer from weather related claims in the first quarter and from an increased incidence of large fire losses to produce a loss of £40.7m [1989 £13.0m profit] for the nine months. The Motor account produced a loss at the third quarter of £40.7m [1989 £3.0m profit] reflecting a continued increase in claims frequency and average cost of claims. The Liability account deteriorated in the third quarter.

In the United States, net written premiums were $1,212m [1989 $1,113m] with an operating ratio of 109.38% as compared with 109.89%. On the United Kingdom accounting basis the underwriting loss was £63.4m [1989 £70.2m loss]. In the third quarter Commercial lines performed better than in the second quarter while Personal lines reported a deterioration. Both performed better than in the equivalent period last year which was adversely affected by losses arising from Hurricane 'Hugo'.

Canada continued to produce a good result and reported an underwriting profit of £0.2m [1989 £1.5m loss] in the third quarter and a deficit at the nine months of £0.7m [1989 £6.3m loss].

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £117.0m [1989 £74.9m loss] with most territories reporting increased losses. Results in Europe and Pacific continued to reflect the impact of bad weather, most noticeably in Australia where storm losses persisted into the third quarter. Experience in the London Market gives some cause for concern.

New annual premiums for life business in the United Kingdom for the first nine months of 1990 were £38.6m [1989 £38.4m] and single premiums £36.9m [1989 £26.3m].

General Accident plc
World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH

EC aims to remove barriers in satellite competition

From Peter Guilford in Brussels

THE European Commission has announced an initiative to open up the European market for satellite communications.

Filippo Maria Pandolfi, the science commissioner, yesterday disclosed plans in his green paper to abolish all exclusive rights which currently stifle cross-border competition in satellite television. "In future, it should be possible to obtain and use satellite dishes for direct reception, notably of television, without any restrictions."

The move could clear the way for Britain's satellite broadcasting industry, the biggest in Europe, to expand more smoothly overseas, but it could also encourage foreign competitors to challenge their British rivals more vigorously in Britain.

Signor Pandolfi admits one aim is to boost the sale of satellite dishes, which he says are transforming traditional methods of television transmission. They provide satellite operators with 46 per cent of their Community revenue, according to EC estimates.

The green paper will also spawn specific directives to open up access to the use of satellites themselves. Some national safeguards will still be tolerated to avoid harmful interference and guarantee the protection of sensitive data and personal privacy.

Companies selling satellite services will be guaranteed access to transmission capacity through contracts with satellite controllers. They will not be stopped from sending signals directly themselves via satellites.

Businesses and consumers will benefit from better services and lower prices, Signor Pandolfi said. "In particular, it will help the burgeoning market in very small aperture terminals to flourish. Companies use VSATs to send and receive information on their premises.".

Car distribution networks, for example, will enjoy faster communication between each other. Companies will be put in closer contact with their subsidiaries, too, when restrictive national laws and practices disappear.

He claimed, however, that the EC's segmented and chaotically regulated market in satellite communications is lagging up to 30 years behind Europe's grip on the technology itself.

European satellites and equipment can be up to 33 per cent more expensive than their American rivals. European makers have "practically no impact on the growing world market", in spite of their technological lead. Europe holds 20 per cent of the $6 billion global market in "second generation" satellite systems, but the commission hopes to see this double for the latest generation.

In step with plans to create a level playing field for greater competition on the European market, Brussels will ensure that all 12 countries can accept each other's licensing and type-approval procedures. When the green paper emerges for broader discussion, governments and industry will be asked to define one set of Community standards to ensure compatibility of equipment and techniques.

Regalian project attracts interest

By Martin Waller

REGALIAN Properties, the commercial and residential developer, is believed to have received potential offers of more than £100 million for its Kensington Palace Gardens luxury flats project, probably the most prestigious residential scheme in the country.

David Goldstone, the chairman, said four approaches from overseas buyers had been received for the development, which is opposite Kensington Palace, home of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and two sets of negotiations had reached an advanced stage before they broke down.

Regalian was announcing pre-tax profits little changed at £5.23 million (£5.51 million) for the six months to end-September and an interim dividend maintained at 1.5p. Most of the earnings came from interest from the group's cash balances. Gross profit of £2.04 million went on administrative expenses of £2.41 million, while net interest receivable totalled £5.69 million. The group capitalised £6 million of interest payments.

Since 1987, the group has focused almost entirely on commercial property. The 0.64-acre Kensington Palace site was bought for £22 million that year, with the intention of building 20 luxury flats.

Mr Goldstone would give no further details of the approaches or how much the potential buyers were prepared to pay. But given the flats have a combined retail price of about £120 million once completed, it is thought unlikely that Regalian would have considered offers for much less than that.

One approach is believed to have come from Middle Eastern interests looking for a base in London. Another is thought to have originated in Japan. This was the most recent approach, with talks breaking down four weeks ago.

"In my view it is a trophy building, and it would justify a substantial sum of money," Mr Goldstone said.

Regalian hopes shortly to obtain planning permission for its Bishopsbridge project next to Paddington station in London.

'Trophy building': David Goldstone, the chairman

Bad debts squeeze electronic company

By Our City Staff

BRITAIN'S largest electronic components distributor, Electrocomponents, said that the weaker economic climate "inevitably led to increased bad debts" and that interim results suffered by £500,000 because of higher bad debt write-offs.

Group interim results at £24.7 million pre-tax to end-September compared with £23.9 million previously also reflect significant, but not disclosed, losses within its lighting division. The size of the losses should be evident when full year accounts are published.

Turnover was £194.5 million (£190.7 million). Because of the group's strong operating cash flow, the interim dividend is being raised from 1.7p to 1.8p a share.

Sir Keith Bright, chairman, says market conditions continue to be depressed — more in Britain than elsewhere — and while the core business continues to make progress, overall results will be affected by demand level in the British retail market.

Electrocomponents has put certain American assets on sale.

The group's legal action against STC alleging infringement of copyright "continues to wind its way through the courts". The group spent £42 million on acquisitions and capital expenditure during the half year. Gearing at September 30 was 25 per cent.

The shares traded 13p lower on results at 180p.

Jessups profits fall to £1.38m

PRE-TAX profits at Jessups, the Essex motor dealer, fell to £1.38 million (£2.8 million) in the year to end-August on turnover ahead at £100.8 million (£97.7 million). Operating profits slipped to £4.93 million (£5.37 million) but interest payments rose to £3.55 million (£2.56 million).

Earnings per share plunged from 18.7p to 6.93p, with fully diluted earnings down from 17.65p to 8.41p. The final dividend is kept at 4.75p, making an unchanged total of 7p. The shares lost 5p to 54p.

Creditors call for liquidation of Eastern

New York

THE unsecured creditors of Eastern Air Lines are urging the judge handling the carrier's bankruptcy case to begin "a prompt and orderly liquidation" of the airline.

The creditors' committee said Eastern's losses had far exceeded projections by Martin Shugrue, the airline's court-appointed trustee.

The creditors include banks, Eastern's unions and the manufacturers of aircraft and engines such as Airbus Industrie, in which British Aerospace has a stake. They have urged Burton Lifland, the New York bankruptcy judge, not to allow Mr Shugrue to withdraw any more money from Eastern's escrow fund to keep the airline operating. The fund has $257 million left.

The creditors urged a liquidation even though they had been warned by Mr Shugrue that they could end up with none of what they are owed. A liquidation of Eastern could cost $500 million to $600 million.

The creditors said Mr Shugrue had forecast in June that losses to end-October would total $197.1 million, when they have, in fact, totalled $370.8 million.

Mr Shugrue had estimated that $200 million would be needed from the fund to help keep the airline operating until the end of December. Including the latest request, he has sought $300 million.

Mr Shugrue said Eastern was winning back business travellers and that it should be able to tap its reserve for $30 million this month and $40 million next to keep operating. He predicted the airline would break even by March.

● Trans World Airlines reported a net loss of $14.7 million for the third quarter, compared with a $29.9 million loss last time. TWA's revenues were $1.34 billion, up from $1.27 billion. TWA reported a $58.8 million operating profit, compared with $60.7 million in 1989.

(New York Times)

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CU

NINE MONTHS' REVIEW

Pre-tax profit £27.2m

★ Life profits increase 13% to £74.5m with strong new life premium growth of 31%.

★ Operating profit before taxation £27.2m (1989 £110.3m).

★ Results affected by first quarter storms costing £55m and property subsidence claims of £23m.

★ Total premium growth 11% but non-life insurance markets remain competitive.

★ United States improves to a profit of £7.6m (1989 loss £30.2m).

HIGHLIGHTS

	9 months 1990 Unaudited	9 months 1989 Unaudited
Total premium income	£2,699.9m	£2,546.3m
Operating profit before taxation	£27.2m	£110.3m
Operating profit after taxation	£16.5m	£60.7m
Earnings per share	3.9p	14.4p
Shareholders' funds	£1,221m	£1,609m

CU Commercial Union plc

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no fresh developments on which it could comment.

and the interim dividend is 3.95p (3.35p).

هكذا من الأصل

British Airways hits turbulence

Many of the world's commercial airlines are likely to go bust in the next couple of years unless the Gulf impasse is resolved. The industry is moving into a slump induced by the slowdown in world economic growth, affecting business and leisure travel, so the rise in oil prices cannot be recovered. Prices can be raised, but the benefit is lost in discounting and customers find the seats are not so bad in economy class.

British Airways is doing much better than most of its competitors. The generally successful United, which was also ahead of the bunch, managed only a 5 per cent rise in group profits for the six months to end September compared with BA's 24 per cent. Even for BA, however, business will be dire in the winter season.

If BA's prediction that it will break even in the second half is born out – which depends almost entirely on what happens to the oil price – that could cloak a £160 million downturn in trading, rather more than the rise in the fuel bill. Last year, BA made £86 million in the off season including £25 million from aircraft sales. Aircraft sales were expected to yield £60 million this time, implying a swingeing operating loss if that is still the case.

This is no time for investors in BA to panic, however. The shares fell back to within pennies of the 125p launch price yesterday mainly because of City disappointment that the relatively insignificant interim dividend was not raised.

Lord King, the chairman, is one of the old school who treats the dividend as a signal, rather than believing shareholders' income in a volatile business should rise through thick and thin. The company is about to go into negotiations with staff and ask them to take some of the pain through minimal wage increases.

If BA does break even in the second half, its shares at 131p would sell at about 5 times diluted 1990-91 earnings. On an unchanged dividend, they would yield 9 per cent. BA's finances are complex but still about the soundest in the industry. Last year's convertible bond issue was not needed for its original purpose of financing BA's share of the aborted UAL buyout, but it has come in handy.

After the cost-cutting exercise, Ian Wild of BZW reckons BA could make about £250 million pre-tax next year, which should not threaten the dividend. But that depends on the conventional assumption of an average oil price of $25 per barrel, compared with nearly $34 today. There will be intense pressure if war leads to another price spike but sustained high oil prices would be worse.

The saving grace for BA is that competitors such as Pan American and TWA are much weaker. Big bankruptcies or cuts in services would lead to a fall in capacity and higher market share for BA, though the aircraft market could go into a tailspin.

The trickiest decisions for Lord King and Sir Colin may be to resist some of the opportunities the industry slump will bring for acquisitions and expansion on top of existing ambitions plans. Sound finances can easily disapppear if BA is too keen to pick up the pieces.

COMMENT

Power points

During a fallow fortnight for electricity analysts before impact day for the 12 regional distributors next Wednesday, Nigel Hawkins at Hoare Govett has come up with a brave but intriguing study of the relative availability of the shares around the country. Mr Hawkins, one of the few independent stockbrokers, assumes, by analogy with the water float a year ago, that about half the shares will go to the retail public. He is looking for yields to average 8.5 per cent and range from 8.1 per cent for the most attractive distributors to up to 9.2 per cent at the other end.

Research into earlier privatisations showed that take-up varies enormously from area to area. At the top of the range, 18 out of every 100 households in London and the South East go for privatisation issues. That figure drops to 7 per cent participation in Yorkshire and Humberside.

Factoring in this participation rate would produce a wide variation in likely local demand for the 12 distributors compared with their size. If the popularity of privatisation issues varies widely across the country, so does the relative size of the distributors, and the two do not match. In Seeboard's area, covering the prosperous south coast, just £409 would have to come from each participating household to absorb all the company's shares. That figure rises to a surprising £1,754 in Yorkshire. Second highest is Northern, with Midlands Electricity not far behind.

The government must take into account the different levels of likely retail demand in each region, based on past experience, when it sets the yield for each company. Yorkshire, therefore, can expect to see itself moved up the range of yields purely for this reason giving investors a better deal.

The implication is clear. Those investors wanting to fish further afield than their own regional electricity company should take a view on the success of the power float as late as possible. If it looks like going swimmingly, Yorkshire, Northern and Midlands are where the spare stock should be, while there is little point competing with the burghers of the south coast towns for their slice. If it all looks like coming to grief, avoid Yorkshire like the plague.

Institutional hawks show their talons in boardroom

THOUGH stranger things have happened, it is inconceivable that Sir Ralph Halpern will not relinquish his executive role at Burton Group when the fashion retailer announces its financial results today, finally bowing to institutional pressure that was first brought to bear almost a year ago.

Sir Ralph has fiercely resisted attempts to oblige him to split the roles of chairman and chief executive, but ultimately all that remained to be negotiated were the terms of his settlement.

Pension funds, insurance companies and other financial institutions, anxious to protect the value of their investment in a volatile stock market, have become increasingly militant and were not to be denied.

Several leading executives have felt the sharp edge of this new-found militancy in recent weeks. Roger Kingdon resigned as chief executive of Davy Corporation, Britain's largest independent engineering contractor, yesterday to be replaced by Patrick McTighe, his deputy.

Institutional discontent with the company, whose shares have collapsed from 262p earlier this year to 69p yesterday, is believed to have played a key role in persuading Sir Alistair Frame, chairman since January, to implement major changes in the boardroom. With a market capitalisation of less than £83 million, Davy finds itself in dispute with two clients over contracts worth more than £100 million and running into difficulties with cost overruns in another two projects. With one of Britain's leading engineering companies effectively on the auction block at a knockdown price, institutions argued that responsibility for recurring problems should be borne at the highest level.

Bunzl and Cookson Group are two other industrial groups who have been put under the institutional cosh. Bunzl's James White refused to agree to split the roles of chairman and chief executive and was left with no option but to resign after leading shareholders insisted that too much corporate power was held in one pair of hands.

Under pressure: Sir Ralph Halpern, of Burton Group

Cookson insisted that institutions played no direct role in the resignation of Michael Henderson as chairman and chief executive, but the company was friendless in the City after its shares dived from 378p to 80p in little more than a year and the pressure for change became intense.

Executives who have been brought to book by institutions claim with some justification that institutions were quite happy to take a back-seat role as long as the financial picture was bright. At the first hint of trouble, it is claimed, institutions react by seeking major changes which do not always have a positive impact on companies.

But in many cases, institutions have been remarkably tolerant and been prodded on numerous occasions before showing signs of life. In the notable case of Burton, Sir Ralph first incurred their wrath over a remuneration package which looked over-generous when trading conditions were evidently turning against his company. Protests forced some compromise from the Burton board but Sir Ralph continued to hold formidable authority within the company.

Cookson's difficulties can be traced back over at least 18 months yet institutions were apparently happy to sanction the appointment of Mr Henderson, then just chief executive, as chairman upon the retirement of Ian Butler.

Institutions may appear to have turned hawkish in recent weeks, but two clear signs that they were ready to play a more active role in executive decisions emerged in mid-1989 and were unwisely ignored by board members who had, perhaps, underestimated the depth of the current recession and how it would focus shareholders' minds on the value of their investments.

In the first instance, Sun Life led City institutions in a successful attempt to secure better terms from Magnet, the kitchen furniture and do-it-yourself group, for holders of convertible preference shares during the £629 million buyout. Sun Life, which held 10.4 per cent of the convertibles, sought, and achieved, a larger cash element to supplement replacement preference shares of doubtful value. Sun Alliance also flexed its muscle in an effort to block the buyout altogether, but failed.

Last December, John Ritblat was forced to abort plans to restructure British Land, the property group, after institutions led by Legal and General objected to terms which would have netted him, his family and senior managers up to £56 million.

As corporate health deteriorates further, it seems certain that pension funds and insurers will seek, and obtain, greater influence in the boardrooms of UK plc.

MARTIN BARROW

Light relief at Thorn

TEMPUS

ON THE basis that any deal over Thorn EMI's lighting division was better than none, news that terms had been agreed with General Electric was well received by the market, although the strength in the share price owed something to a dividend increase that had not been universally expected.

Only time will tell whether a £69 million return on the loss-making lamp manufacturing third of the operation is preferable to receiving £300 million for the entire lighting division, but there is a nagging suspicion that the Americans have the better of the deal.

What seems certain is that the deal will have no material impact on this year's profits or balance sheet. The initial payment of £28.5 million will scarcely dent the £450 million debt pile.

Light sourcing losses dragged the division £1.2 million into the red in the first six months, against profits of £10.2 million, and it will be surprising if any of the lost ground can be reclaimed in the second half.

Elsewhere, tight household budgets have dimmed the rental and retail side, and profits are down from £62.6 million to £52.4 million, while technology just failed to match last year's £21.5 million.

As management wrestles with restructuring problems in these areas it will take heart from the success of the music division. Though not immune from recession, the heavy spend on improving the balance of the group's portfolio of artists, has struck paydirt, in the shape of a 50 per cent surge in profits to £49.6 million.

Without sweeter sounds from the economy in general Thorn will fall well short of last year's profit, and will do well to top £300 million, for earnings of 62p, little more than a tenth of the 608p share price. Little to go for in the short term.

Boots

THE City resisted the urge to say "if only" to Boots yesterday, but there was no getting away from it. If only Boots had wanted to buy Ward White, if only it had paid less for the Halfords, Payless and AG Stanley group, its image in the City would be stronger.

The Ward White figures in Boots' interim results do not make happy reading but the City was prepared to forgive Sir James Blyth, chief executive, because of the stunning performance from Boots the Chemist where profits rose by 40.2 per cent to £88.2 million.

Boots' overall pre-tax profit for the six months to end-September was £162 million, up 1.1 per cent, and ahead of many City forecasts. Sales rose 21.7 per cent to £1.73 billion and trading profits rose 26.3 per cent to £188 million. Earnings per share fell 4.3 per cent to 11.2p and the interim dividend rose 6.5 per cent to 4.1p.

Halfords was the biggest disappointment with profits in the first half of £2.6 million on sales of £140 million. Payless, now merged with Do It All, made profits of £5.8 million on sales of £88.1 million. AG Stanley, the home decorating chain, performed well with profits of £5.9 million on sales of £58.9 million.

Boots polish: Sir James

The pharmaceutical division increased profits by 13 per cent to £61 million and Boots Opticians doubled profits to £2 million. The loss at Children's World has fallen from £4.1 million to £2.9 million.

Gearing is only 22 per cent and the group is expected to make around £370 million for the full year, putting the shares, up 3p at 316p, on a p/e rano of 13. They are worth holding for the longer term.

Land Securities

LAND Securities may be the bellwether stock of the property sector, but that has not stopped it outperforming both that sector and the market as a whole over the past few months.

In May the company announced a rise in asset values despite the slump in the market. Yesterday it apparently defied gravity again with a 27 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £102.7 million for the six months to end-September and a 16 per cent rise in the interim dividend.

But there are clear indications that the run may be coming to an end. Even the most optimistic of the company's City followers expect a fall in NAV at the year end, while some of the bears say the slump could be as much as 15 per cent.

Land Securities itself concedes that asset values have already fallen this year, while telling the market not to expect a corresponding profits increase in the second half. The first half jump was largely due to a £30 million-plus increase in rental income coming out of a series of timely rent reviews.

More seriously, the company suggests that the problems in the property industry have affected some of the growth in future reversionary income. Much of the rise in the share price this summer has been because of the perception of Land Securities as a safe stock in difficult times. The company's cautious line on borrowings and refusal to capitalise interest payments have helped it avoid the difficulties of some of the former sector high-fliers.

Pre-tax profits for the current year will be about £205 million, but the NAV could drop as far as 740p, if the bears are right. At 521p, the upside for the shares looks limited.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Oil analysts in demand

ONLY a month after poaching two of the City's top oil analysts from Hoare Govett, Société Générale Strauss Turnbull is scouting for talent. For Mark Roberts, global oils analyst at the firm since April 1989, has decided to try his hand at public relations. Roberts resigned on Tuesday, just days after John Toalster and Irene Himona joined from Hoare Govett, but he insists the move has been planned for some time. "I like the idea of representing clients and easing their way into the City," says Roberts, who joins College Hill Associates, the investor relations company, early next month. "My clients will include Clyde Petroleum and Ranger, and I will also be covering natural resources." This is the fourth career change in ten years for Roberts, who was a geophysicist in Saudi Arabia before joining County NatWest as a market-maker in 1986. With Hoare Govett and SGST both seeking replacements, the shrinking band of oil analysts are well placed to name their price.

Camera-shy

SIR James Blyth, the chief executive of Boots, has a reputation as a snappy dresser. But these days he seems to have become camera-shy. Photographers who arrived at The Brewery in Chiswell Street for the group's results yesterday morning were told that their services were not required. The company, it appears, had decided to photograph Blyth with Sir Christopher Benson, the new chairman, outside a Boots store in Nottingham, to have something to be distributed on the day. But in the finest traditions of Fleet Street, at least two snappers decided to try their luck. "We had to turn them away," says a public relations adviser, who adds that the meeting proceeded smoothly enough. Blyth, who earned £383,000 last year, turned down a photocall before the meeting, and refused to let photographers inside. Analysts present seemed more interested in the ranks of policemen who gathered outside the venue – not, it seems, to keep out the press, but because Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, was due in the area.

SVAM to close

Scrimgeour Vickers Asset Management, the private client stockbroking arm of the former Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, is to close with the loss of 65 jobs. SVAM was one of the last remaining divisions of Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, which was closed by Citibank, its American parent, in January. But negotiations are in hand to sell SVAM and up to half the employees may be kept on as part of any package. The news may surprise few in the City, who have seen steady job cuts by the financial and banking corporation since 1988, when Citicorp pulled out of the gilts market. Two weeks ago, Citibank announced it was to pull out of research, sales and marketing in its European Equities and UK Growth Companies divisions. "There was no point in carrying on the private client side," says one insider, who adds that the firm has no plans to pull out of fund management, one of its strong points.

STICKER on the bumper of a worn-out mini, seen near the Bank of England: "Don't laugh – your daughter might be in here."

Test for Samuels

ANGUS Samuels, the former chief executive of the Stock Group, and architect of the break-up that followed the collapse of British & Commonwealth, is back in the market. In a new test of his management skills, he has joined Credit Suisse Buckmaster & Moore to head the private client and fund management divisions. "Like anyone in the City, we are keen on recruiting good people," says Samuels, who worked for Fergusson Bros, Hall, Stewart & Co, the Johannesburg stockbroker, before joining Hoare Govett in 1986, and now hopes to expand the CSB&M operation. "The B&C affair left us with no option but to break up the group, and we split the business between James Capel and Flemings." After a brief handover period with Capel, he began talking to Credit Suisse, and now reports to Harry France, the group's chairman. The group has also hired Roger Brookhouse, former managing director of Lloyds Investment Management International, to run its new international fund management division.

M&S to rescue

HELP is on hand for those who work in the City but whose culinary skills do not quite match their ambitions. Stockbrokers keen to impress at dinner parties but who lack the time or ability to do the job themselves will be able to cheat when Marks and Spencer's 16,000 sq ft food hall opens at the Finsbury Circus end of Moorgate next March. M&S has already had some success with its men-only clothing store in the City, tempting fund managers away from the shops they usually use, but the new store will be its first food outlet within the Square Mile.

JON ASHWORTH

LAND SECURITIES

INTERIM RESULTS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1990

Sound progress in a difficult market

Rental income increased by £31.4 million to £162.3 million

Pre-tax profit up 27.1% to £102.7 million

Interim dividend increased by 15.8% to 5.5p

Pre-tax profit for the half year to 31 March 1991 is not expected to differ materially from this half year

Extracts from the Review of the Group's Activities:

All completed office developments are now fully let with the exception of 68,000 sq. ft. in one City building. Good progress has also been made in pre-letting new developments currently under construction.

The present problems of the property industry generally have resulted in weakening investment yields and reduced rental expectations which have affected capital values and some of the growth in future reversionary income.

Despite this, the Company will benefit from the considerable additional income which has still to flow from reviews and renewals in the next year or two. In addition, substantial further income will flow from developments which have been let but are not yet income producing.

The developments under construction, including those which we have started recently, are all situated in proven locations and are being built to our high standards. With these qualities the buildings should let readily and generate further income in due course.

The Company concentrates on long term fundamental principles to maximise the income from the portfolio; it is from increased income that potential for growth in dividends and capital values will be derived.

A leaflet setting out the Interim Results and the Review is being despatched to the Shareholders. A copy may be obtained from the Secretary,

LAND SECURITIES PLC

Landsec House, 21 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4PY

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

[illegible]							

November 14, 1990 Total: 28945 Calls 14222 Puts 14723 FT-SE: Calls 816 Puts 1646 *Underlying security price.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
November 12	November 23	February 21	March 4

Call options were taken out on: 14/11/90 Aviva Petroleum, Kelt Energy, Premier Consolidated Eurotunnel Wts, Tuskar Res.
Put: Eurotunnel Wts.
Puts & Calls: Eurotunnel Wts, Tuskar Res.

STOCK MARKET

Eurotunnel issue may be left with underwriters

EUROTUNNEL'S nil-paid shares fell sharply, raising fears that the bulk of the group's recent £590 million rights issue would be left with the underwriters.

The nil-paid, equivalent to three ordinary units, slumped 50p to 118p, while the ordinary fell 23p to 320p. Dealers have reported French selling of the shares and claim that institutions in the City are also giving them a wide berth. The rights issue was heavily discounted and included a number of free concessions designed to attract private investors.

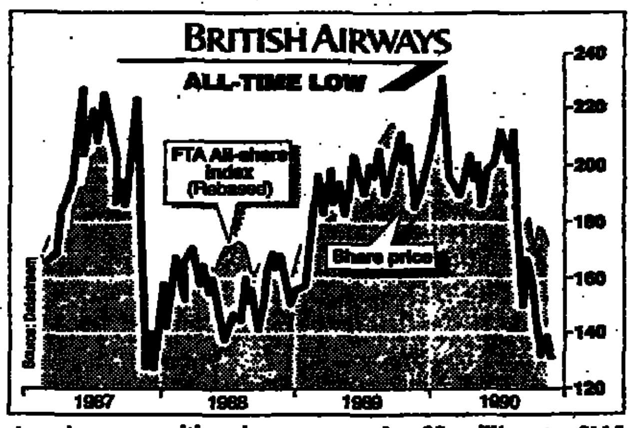
But, according to Ian Wild, an analyst at BZW, this tactic does not seem to have worked. He said: "It was never an issue to attract the institutions. They will be happy to get out after picking up their underwriting fee as quickly as possible. They do not want to trade in the shares. The whole future of the project is far too uncertain."

It will be another three weeks before the extent of the take-up is known, but further weakness in the price could be the signal for the underwriters to pick up the tab.

The rest of the equity market was overshadowed by political worries and another nervous performance by the pound. Turnover was at a low ebb with fewer than 350 million shares traded. Not even an opening rise on Wall Street could encourage fund managers and the FT-SE 100 index fell 10.0 points to 2,046.0. The FT index of 30 shares lost 10.4 at 1,583.2.

Gold shares remained dull with the FT gold mine index slipping 0.6 to 161.7, a low for this year. Government securities continued to mirror sterling, ending with falls of more than £½.

A bear squeeze lifted Reuters, the international news agency and financial information group, by 24p to 652p. The group gave a presentation for analysts in the City this week and Goldman Sachs, the



American securities house, was believed to have been a buyer overnight in New York.

Talk of stake-building by Hong Kong Land lifted Hammerson A by 10p to 580p after touching 590p.

The Laporte chemicals group fell 18p to 466p, after briefly touching 458p, in the wake of downgradings by BZW and UBS Phillips & Drew. BZW has reduced its profit estimate for the current year by £5 million to £115 million and is forecasting £135 million for next year. Jinty Price, an analyst, says that the downgrading reflects a further deterioration in the sector producing chemicals for the construction industry.

Problems in the construction industry have also forced UBS to cut its forecast for Blue Circle Industries, down 7p at 198p.

In the food sector, BZW has trimmed its forecast for Dalgety, the Spillers food group, by £3 million to an unchanged £118 million for the year to next June. A figure of £127 million has been pencilled in for 1992.

Meanwhile, the clearing banks have again come under fire after a downgrading of profits by UBS. Barclays Bank eased 2p to 346p, Lloyds 7p to 270p, and Midland 2p to 188p. Only National Westminster made headway, adding 2p to 262p.

British Airways went into a nosedive, falling 8p to an all-time low of 130p after Lord King, the chairman, gave a warning that the group would fail to make a profit in the second half-year. He said that price increases had failed to keep pace with heavier fuel costs. The warning came as the group revealed first-half pre-tax profits of £320 million against £259 million last time.

The composite insurance sector was brought down to earth with a bump as Commercial Union weighed in with a set of third-quarter figures far worse than any City estimates. Pre-tax profits were down from £110.3 million to £27.2 million. The group blamed the continuing downward trend on subsidence claims, a greater incidence of large claims and increased competition in a slowing economy. Subsidence claims totalled £23 million in the first nine months and show no signs of slowing. The CU share price, which enjoyed a late speculative run on Tuesday after Société Générale emerged with a 3 per cent stake, finished 12p lower at 455p.

The story from the rival General Accident gave little cause for cheer with the group turning in losses for the nine months of £73.3 million again a profit for the corresponding period of £137.1 million.

MICHAEL CLARK

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
ADT	1,103	CU	409	Lonrho	1,997	Siebe	371
Abbey Nat	1,385	Cookson	1,893	Lucas	146	Slough	174
Alld-Lyons	1,897	Courtaulds	1,113	Manpower	n/a	Smith & N	754
Amstrad	922	Dalgety	301	M&S	2,202	SK Beech	791
Anglian	1,435	Dixons	711	Maxwell Cm	341	Do Uts	225
Argos	1,486	ECC	547	MB Group	543	Smith WH	250
ASDA	1,717	Enterprise	440	MEPC	767	Smiths Ind	182
AB Foods	344	Ferranti	3,242	Midland	9,508	STC	1,091
Argyll	3,663	Fisons	1,725	Nat West	2,515	Stan Chart	405
BAA	362	FKI	1,276	Next	431	Storehse	292
BET	2,367	Gen Acc	1,869	Nth Food	582	Sun Allnce	1,079
BTR	1,127	GEC	1,898	P&O	594	Sun Life	36
BAT	844	Glaxo	813	Pearson	889	T & N	1,206
Barclays	2,286	Glynwed	208	Pilkington	4,886	TI Group	186
Bass	331	Granada	722	Polly Peck	n/a	Tarmac	1,831
Beazer	1,793	Grand Met	896	Prudential	1,006	Tate & Lyle	570
Berisfd Intl	1,191	GUS 'A'	28	Racal	10,441	Taylor Wood	378
BICC	115	GRE	757	Racal Tele	90	TSB	650
Blue Circle	2,379	GKN	729	Rk Hovis	1,757	Tesco	5,648
BOC	2,244	Guinness	745	Rank	1,014	Thames Wtr	1,416
Boots	5,156	Hanson 'A'	368	R&C	69	Thorn EMI	2,637
BPB	859	Hanson	5,588	Redland	402	Trafalgar	4,816
Br Aero	783	Do Wts	604	Reed	1,183	THF	1,174
Br Airways	4,674	H & C	511	Reuters	804	Ultramar	647
Br Gas	3,040	Hawker	1,254	RMC Gp	225	Unigate	286
Br Land	1,620	Hillsdown	2,009	RTZ	867	Unilever	298
Br Petrol	4,851	IMI	67	R-Royce	3,858	United Bis	2,889
Br Steel	2,752	ICI	673	Rothmn 'B'	841	United News	202
Br Telecom	5,681	Inchcape	3,803	Royal Bank	1,704	Wellcome	87
Bunzl	128	Kingfisher	1,070	Royal Ins	1,484	Welsh	464
Burmah Cast	142	Lasmo	325	Saatchi	114	Wessex	372
Burton	1,503	Ladbroke	1,982	Sainsbury	1,170	Whitbrd	2,163
C&W	1,552	Land Sec	1,986	Scot & N	493	Wgn Teaps	2,305
Cadbury	1,791	Laporte	2,070	Sears	1,535	Williams	65
Calor	183	L&G	63	Sedgwick	919	Wills Cor	2,945
Carlton	488	Lloyds	3,410	Severn Trnt	2,265	Wimpey G	733
Coats	312	Lloyds Abb	1,199	Shell	2,171		

MAJOR INDICES

New York:
Dow Jones .... 2557.43 (+22.03)*
S&P Composite .... 319.71 (+2.04)*
Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 23937.44 (−36.23)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 3006.82 (+7.85)
FT-SE Eurotrack .... 955.74 (−5.92)
Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 94.8 (+0.2)
Sydney: AO .... 1345.2 (−3.6)
Frankfurt: DAX .... 1406.23 (+3.32)
Brussels:
General .... 5106.24 (−34.51)
Paris: CAC .... 424.02 (−2.49)
Zurich: SKA Gen .... 472.0 (−4.2)
London:
FT—A All-Share .... 986.82 (−5.26)
FT—"500" .... 1086.64 (−5.88)
FT. Gold Mines .... 161.7 (−0.6)
FT. Fixed Interest .... 88.40 (−0.08)
FT. Govt Secs .... 80.00 (−0.35)
Bargains 18490
SEAQ Volume 356.5m
USM (Datastream) .... 104.57 (−0.39)

*Denotes latest trading price

WORLD MARKETS

Tokyo ends lower after thin trading

Tokyo
SHARES closed weaker after a day of thin trading in which buy and sell programs pushed the indices in both directions. The Nikkei index closed down 36.23 points, or 0.15 per cent, at 23,937.44.

Some investors bought shares that were backed by particular incentives, but most of the day's trading was related to the stock derivative markets.

The volume of 350 million shares compared with a volume of about 400 million on Tuesday.

More than 95 per cent of the 1,196 shares listed in the first section were traded. Brokers spoke of heavy activity in warrant-related issues.

● **Sydney** — Shares closed slightly weaker in featureless trading. The All-Ordinaries index closed 3.6 points lower at 1,345.2.

● **New York** — Blue chips extended their opening gains in the late morning, boosted by weak crude oil prices and the anticipation of an easing in credit by the Federal Reserve. The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 8 points to 2,543.40.

● **Frankfurt** — Prices rebounded to finish mixed to slightly firmer after opening sharply lower. The Dax index closed 3.32 points higher at 1,406.23 after slipping as far as 1,384.62.

● **Singapore** — Prices closed weaker on slight but widespread profit-taking with sentiment also depressed by weak Wall Street and Tokyo markets. The *Straits Times* industrial index retreated by 1.88 points to 1,114.82.

● **Hong Kong** — The market ended slightly firmer but below its highs in moderate dealings after some steady buying from overseas institutions. The Hang Seng index ended at 3,006.82, up 7.85 points. *(Reuter)*

WALL STREET

	Nov 14 midday	Nov 13 close		Nov 14 midday	Nov 13 close		Nov 14 midday	Nov 13 close
[illegible]								

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	564.9	−0.2	−33.0	−0.2	−24.4	−0.6	−18.6
(free)	108.0	−0.2	−33.0	−0.3	−24.4	−0.6	−18.5
EAFE	968.8	−0.5	−36.5	−0.6	−31.6	−0.9	−22.9
(free)	101.6	−0.5	−36.6	−0.7	−31.7	−0.8	−23.0
Europe	591.7	−0.7	−22.2	−0.9	−19.8	−1.0	−5.5
(free)	128.0	−0.6	−21.7	−1.2	−19.5	−1.0	−4.8
Nth America	398.4	0.3	−26.0	−0.1	−9.9	−0.1	−10.0
Nordic	1114.7	−1.5	−26.4	−1.9	−23.2	−1.9	−13.0
(free)	186.8	−1.5	−20.6	−1.8	−15.3	−1.8	−3.5
Pacific	2198.6	−0.4	−44.8	−0.4	−38.8	−0.8	−32.6
Far East	3183.7	−0.4	−45.0	−0.4	−39.6	−0.7	−33.1
Australia	236.1	−0.7	−32.0	0.0	−15.2	−1.1	−17.4
Austria	1331.6	0.2	−10.4	−0.4	−6.1	−0.2	8.9
Belgium	725.4	0.1	−26.3	−0.3	−23.4	−0.2	−10.4
Canada	398.4	0.1	−33.6	−0.3	−18.9	−0.2	−19.3
Denmark	1138.4	−0.7	−13.5	−1.2	−9.6	−1.1	5.1
Finland	64.9	0.3	−43.7	0.1	−40.0	−0.1	−31.6
(free)	87.7	0.6	−41.2	0.5	−37.2	0.3	−28.5
France	599.6	−0.5	−25.8	−0.8	−22.5	−0.9	−9.9
Germany	700.4	−0.3	−23.7	−0.9	−19.2	−0.7	−7.2
Hong Kong	1904.4	0.8	−14.1	0.5	4.2	0.5	4.3
Italy	255.3	−2.3	−33.8	−2.7	−29.4	−2.7	−19.5
Japan	3348.0	−0.5	−45.7	−0.5	−40.7	−0.8	−34.0
Netherlands	724.1	0.1	−23.4	−0.5	−18.9	−0.2	−6.9
New Zealand	56.6	−1.6	−45.1	−1.6	−35.0	−1.9	−33.3
Norway	1160.3	−1.3	−13.6	−1.7	−8.0	−1.6	5.1
(free)	204.8	−1.5	−12.3	−1.9	−6.7	−1.8	6.5
Sing/Malay	1364.8	0.4	−31.6	0.2	−25.0	0.1	−16.6
Spain	169.4	−1.1	−28.4	−1.1	−25.3	−1.4	−13.0
Sweden	1144.2	−2.3	−34.8	−2.5	−29.1	−2.6	−20.7
(free)	170.6	−2.4	−29.5	−2.6	−23.4	−2.7	−14.3
Switzerland	726.1	0.0	−20.6	−0.5	−21.9	−0.4	−3.5
(free)	111.0	0.0	−20.5	−0.5	−21.8	−0.4	−3.3
UK	606.7	−0.7	−15.8	−0.7	−15.8	−1.0	2.3
USA	361.1	0.3	−25.3	0.0	−9.2	0.0	−9.2

(lc)* Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
ECC Group .... 305p (+9p)
SA Breweries .... 537½p (+10p)
Sothebys .... 512½p (+50p)
Hammerson 'A' .... 580p (+10p)
VSEL .... 370p (+18p)

FALLS:
A Kershaw .... 450p (−10p)
RHM .... 264½p (−10p)
Laporte .... 465½p (−18p)
Marina Devs .... 295p (−10p)
Calor Group .... 201p (−10p)
Daejan .... 705p (−10p)
Mountview .... 815p (−10p)
Lloyds Abbey .... 312p (−8p)
Wellcome .... 450½p (−8p)
Lloyds .... 270p (−7p)
British Syphon .... 105p (−10p)
SG Warburg .... 288½p (−14p)
Commercial Union .... 455p (−12p)
General Accident .... 429p (−8p)
Britannic .... 622½p (−7p)
Closing prices

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Atlantis Resources	37	
Brabant Res	159	+4
CMW Group	35	
Castle Calm (50p)	29	
Dartmoor Inv Tst (100p)	94	
ECU Tst	40	
EFM Java Tst	36	
Faber Prest	165	
Fleming Euro IT	87	−1
Golden Vale	43	−3
Invergordon	134	
Leading Ls New	2	
Levercrest	98	
MMI	22	
M & W Plc	74	−1
Malaysia Capital	25⅞	
Midland Radio	69	
Nthn Investors	175	
Paramount	.9	
Pizzacrieff	98	
Pelican Gp	36	−1
Proteus Intl	81	
Seton Healthcare	143	
St James Place	65	
Smaller IT	85	−3
Stand Platform	192	+2
Tr Euro Gwth	92	
Utd Energy	1¼	
Utd Uniform	110	
Wig Tps App	160	

RIGHTS ISSUES

Arcadian N/P	¼	
Cauldon N/P	1¾	
Eurotunnel Pack N/P	118	−60
Prop Tst N/P	¼	
Propeller N/P	¼	
Vivat N/P	½	

(Issue price in brackets).

CURRAGH RESOURCES INC.
Director Elections

George S. Moore

Rodney F. Price

John N. Turner, P.C., Q.C.

George E. Whyte, Q.C.

Mr. Clifford H. Frame, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Curragh Resources Inc., is pleased to announce the recent elections of Mr. George S. Moore, Mr. Rodney F. Price, The Right Honourable John N. Turner, P.C., Q.C., and Mr. George E. Whyte, Q.C. to the board of directors of the Corporation.

Mr. Moore, a resident of Spain, is a former Chairman of Citibank Corporation. Mr. Moore's principal directorships include Mercantile Stores Company Inc.; Director Emeritus of W.R. Grace & Co.; M/s Unipepsi Bottlers Ltd., Delhi; Asturiana de Zinc, S.A.; the Spain Fund; and Madrid Business School. Mr. Moore is also President of the Hispanic Society of America and an honourary director of the Metropolitan Opera Association, Inc.

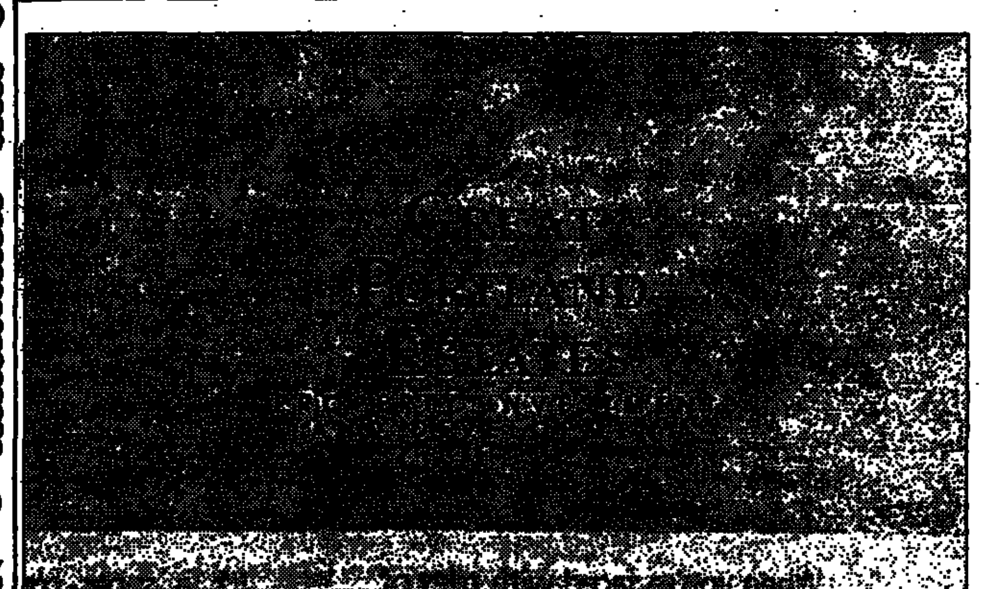
Mr. Price is Managing Director of Pioneer International Limited of Australia. Pioneer has interests in concrete, asphalt and cement; petroleum refining and production; and oil and gas exploration. Mr. Price is a director of Ampol Exploration Limited.

Mr. Turner is a partner in the Toronto law firm of Miller Thomson. He was leader of the Liberal Party of Canada from June, 1984 to June, 1990. As a member of the Federal Parliament of Canada, Mr. Turner served as Prime Minister, and most recently as Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Turner is a director of The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company, The Empire Life Insurance Company, and Beatrice Foods Inc.

Mr. Whyte is Vice Chairman of Curragh Resources Inc., and a director of Sun Alliance Insurance Company.

Curragh Resources Inc. is one of the world's largest producers of lead and zinc concentrates, and is publicly traded on the New York, Toronto, and Montreal stock exchanges.

Curragh's trading symbol is CZP.



INTERIM RESULTS FOR 1990

Unaudited	Half-year to 30.9.90 £'000	Half-year to 30.9.89 £'000	Year to 31.3.90 £'000
Income on ordinary activities before tax	19,723	16,172	35,961
Income on ordinary activities after tax	12,828	10,504	24,142
Earnings per share	6.6p	5.4p	12.3p
Dividend per share	3.4p	3.0p	9.0p

The results for the year ended 31.3.90 are abridged from the full accounts for that year, which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and contain an unqualified audit report.

- Rent receivable £27.9 million – UP 26%
- Earnings per share – UP 22%
- Interim dividend – UP 13%

For a copy of the full Interim Report write to the Secretary, Knighton House, 56 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8BD.

هكذا من الأصل

Only one of the reasons Canon introduced Canofile

When you're faced with piles of paperwork, the hardest problem is where to file them. You end up with a messy desk and cluttered filing cabinets, which makes it almost impossible to find even yesterday's documents, let alone last year's!

Canon's simple solution is the Canofile 250 electronic filing system. It uses the advanced optical disk technology for fast and reliable high-volume storage. There are many more reasons why Canofile is the best choice.

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Company: _____

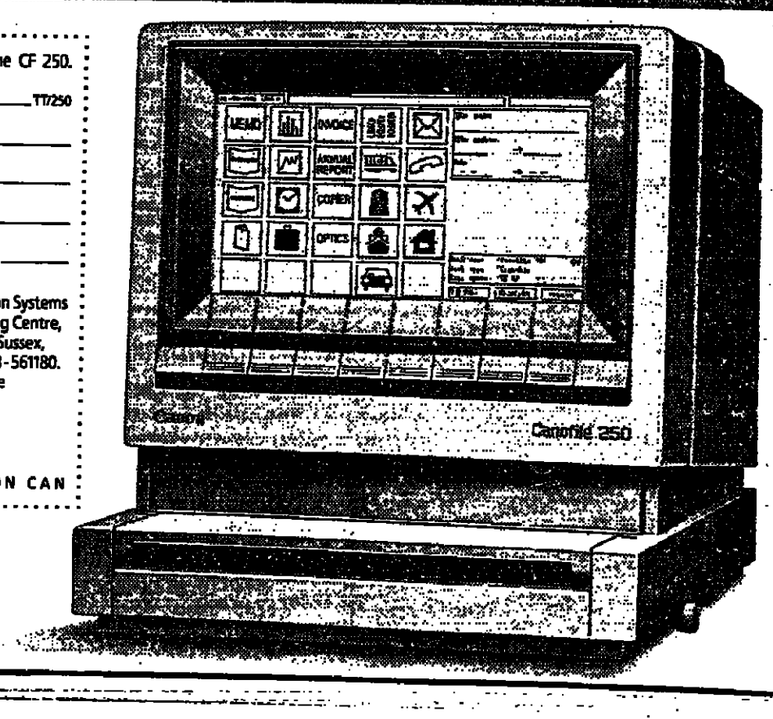
Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

TO: Canon (UK) LTD., Information Systems Division, Unit 1A, The Fleming Centre, Fleming Way, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 2MM. Telephone: 0293-561180. Dial 100 and ask for freefone Canofile 250.

Canon

IF ANYONE CAN CANON CAN



Canofile 250

Desktop Electronic Filing System

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	ch'ng	Yld
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
Gilt/Fixed	108.9	113.3	+0.4	10.15
High Inc Equity	112.6	120.30	-3.0	5.28
W'wide Bond	157.6	166.80	+0.8	7.55
Amer Growth	148.2	158.5	+2.5	1.21
Asian Pacific	94.11	100.5	+0.96	0.18
Assets/Earns	138.3	147.80	+0.7	3.17
Capit Res	96.97	98.02	+0.14	7.21
Comms/Energy	73.18	78.27	-0.18	1.30
Euro Capit	80.71	86.32	+1.22	1.10
General	145.3	155.4	+2.5	3.22
Japan	85.61	91.45	+2.03	0.00
UK Gth Inc	87.05	93.10	-0.12	2.88
Do Acc	134.6	143.90	-0.2	2.88
US Emerg Cos	39.67	42.42	+0.86	0.00
Income/Gth	250.2	267.50	+0.8	3.83
Mamerist Acc	75.15	80.36	+0.84	2.10
Am Inc	39.27	42.00	+0.46	6.82
Ethical	41.07	43.69	+0.04	2.29
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS				
High Inc	298.9	318.3	+1.4	6.26
Equity Inc	162.5	173.0	+0.3	6.47
High Yield	166.5	176.30	+0.1	6.45
Balanced	441.2	469.8	+0.2	4.26
Am Inc	25.67	27.33	+0.58	4.54
World Ass Val	26.13	27.82	+0.47	1.94
Japan	120.0	127.1	+3.9	0.01
Sec of Am	211.3	225.00	+7.4	0.96
BARCLAYS UNICORN				
Capit	76.88	81.72	+0.34	4.67
Euro Gth Inc	82.75	88.25	+1.35	1.45
Extra Inc	82.07	87.77	-0.06	7.76
General	165.9	177.40	+0.2	4.57
Gilt/Fxd Income	48.42	50.15	+0.15	11.01
Inc Trust	375.7	401.8	-0.4	7.07
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 93.7 (day's range 93.6-93.9).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for November 14

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9590-1.9635	1.9615-1.9625	1.04-1.03pr	2.85-2.83pr
Montrl	2.2832-2.2906	2.2832-2.2873	0.36-0.32pr	0.73-0.66pr
Amstrdm	3.2551-3.2741	3.2551-3.2587	1¾-1⅝pr	4¼-3⅞pr
Brussels	59.43-59.91	59.43-59.56	28-25pr	74-68pr
Copnhgn	11.0697-11.1419	11.0697-11.0950	4⅛-3⅞pr	9⅝-8⅝pr
Dublin	1.0793-1.0809	1.0798-1.0809	38-32pr	93-84pr
Frankft	2.8844-2.9021	2.8844-2.8878	1⅜-1¼pr	3⅝-3⅜pr
Lisbon	253.62-255.84	253.62-254.93	28-49ds	101-153ds
Madrid	183.26-184.57	183.86-184.57	1-9ds	28-38ds
Milan	2174.32-2184.86	2174.32-2178.38	4-2pr	12-10pr
Oslo	11.2953-11.3598	11.2953-11.3207	3⅛-2⅝pr	7⅝-6⅝pr
Paris	9.7300-9.7792	9.7300-9.7448	3⅜-3⅛pr	9-8⅝pr
Stckhlm	10.8510-10.9014	10.8510-10.8762	¼-¾ds	2⅛-2⅝ds
Tokyo	253.00-254.54	254.21-254.54	1⅝-1⅛pr	3⅝-3⅛pr
Vienna	20.30-20.41	20.30-20.33	9⅝-6⅞pr	24⅝-22⅝pr
Zurich	2.4430-2.4573	2.4430-2.4463	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	10521.9-10544.2
Australia dollar	2.5421-2.5468
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	231.013-232.082
Cyprus pound	0.827-0.837
Finland markka	6.925-6.965
Greece drachma	298.85-299.85
Hong Kong dollar	15.2703-15.2802
India rupee	35.28-35.59
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.2861-5.2908
Mexico peso	5650-5750
New Zealand dollar	3.2078-3.2148
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.3551-3.3589
S Africa rand (fin)	7.0509-7.1532
S Africa rand (com)	4.9490-4.9575
U A E dirham	n/a

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by Extel and Barclays Bank GTS

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.8150-1.8165	Denmark	5.6575-5.6625	Italy	1110.5-1111.5
Singapore	1.7118-1.7128	Germany	1.4720-1.4727	Belgium (Com)	30.37-30.42
Malaysia	2.6970-2.6980	Switzerland	1.2461-1.2468	Hong Kong	7.7910-7.7920
Australia	1.2970-1.2987	Netherlands	1.6605-1.6615	Portugal	130.25-130.45
Canada	1.1635-1.1645	France	4.9650-4.9700	Spain	93.85-93.95
Sweden	5.5375-5.5425	Japan	129.35-129.45	Austria	10.37-10.39
Norway	5.7700-5.7750				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Extel.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Hse 15
Discount Market Loans %
Overnight High: 14¼ Low 13¼ Week fixed: 14¼
Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying: 2 mth – 13¹¹⁄₁₆ 3 mth – 13⁷⁄₁₆
Selling: 2 mth – 13⁹⁄₁₆ 3 mth – 13⁵⁄₁₆
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 13²⁷⁄₃₂-13⅝
2 mth: 13¾-13⁹⁄₁₆ 3 mth: 13¹¹⁄₁₆-⁹⁄₃₂ 6 mth 12⁵⁄₁₆-¹⁷⁄₃₂
Trade Bills (Discount %): 1 mth: 14¹⁵⁄₃₂
2 mth: 14¼ 3 mth: 14⁵⁄₃₂ 6 mth 13⁵⁄₁₆
Interbank (%). Overnight: open 14¼ close 13¼
1 week: 14⁵⁄₁₆-14¼ 1 mth: 14⁷⁄₃₂-⁵⁄₃₂ 3 mth: 13¾-13¹³⁄₁₆
6 mth: 13⅝-13⁹⁄₁₆ 9 mth: 13-12⅞ 12 mth: 12¹³⁄₁₆-12⅝
Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 day: 14¼ 7 day: 14¼ 1 mth: 14⁵⁄₁₆
3 mth: 13¹³⁄₁₆ 6 mth: 13⁵⁄₁₆ 12 mth: 12⅞
Sterling CDs (%): 1 mth: 14⁵⁄₁₆-14¼
3 mth: 13¹³⁄₁₆-¾ 6 mth: 13⁵⁄₁₆-³⁄₁₆ 12 mth 12⅞-12¾
Dollar CDs (%): 1 mth: 7.85-7.80
3 mth: 8.00-7.95 6 mth: 7.90-7.85 12 mth 7.90-7.85
Building Society CDs (%)
1 mth: 14⁵⁄₁₆-14¼ 2 mth: 14-13³¹⁄₃₂ 3 mth: 13¹³⁄₁₆-13¾
6 mth: 13⁵⁄₁₆-⁹⁄₃₂ 9 mth: 12¹⁵⁄₁₆-12⅞ 12 mth: 12¾-²¹⁄₃₂

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Oct 31, 1990. Agreed rates Nov 26, 1990 to Dec 25, 1990. Scheme I: 15.06 per cent. Schemes II & III: 15.32 per cent. Reference rate Sept 29, 1990 to Oct 31, 1990. Scheme IV & V: 14.164 per cent.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar:	7⅝-7½	7¾-7¹¹⁄₁₆	8-7¹³⁄₁₆	8-7¹³⁄₁₆
Call: 8-7¾				
Deutschemark:	8⅝-8½	8¾-8⅝	9-8⅞	9⅛-9
Call: 8-7				
French Franc:	9⅞-9¾	9⅞-9¾	10⅛-10	10⅛-10⅛
Call: 10-9				
Swiss Franc:	8¼-7⅞	8⅛-8⅛	8⅛-8⅞	8⅛-8⅞
Call: 8-7				
Yen:	8¼-7⅞	8⅛-8⅛	8⁷⁄₁₆-8⁵⁄₁₆	8⅛-8⅞
Call: 7¼-6¾				

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)
Open: $383.25-383.75 Close: $384.00-384.50
High: $384.50-385.00 Low: $383.00-383.50

GOLD COINS (Per coin, Ex VAT)
Britannia: $393.00-398.00 (£200.00-203.00)
Krugerrand: $383.00-386.00 (£195.00-197.00)
Mapleleaf (1/oz): $393.00-398.00 (£200.00-203.00)
American Eagles: $393.00-398.00 (£200.00-203.00)
New Sovereigns: $90.00-92.00 (£45.75-47.25)
Old Sovereigns: $90.00-92.00 (£45.75-47.25)

PRECIOUS METALS
Platinum pm fix: $416.50 (£212.30)
Palladium pm fix: $93.95 (£47.90)
Spot Silver: $4.21-4.23 (£2.145-2.160)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100			Previous open interest 28514		
Dec 90	2066.0	2073.0	2054.0	2057.0	3302
Mar 91	NT	—	—	2066.5	0
Three Month Sterling			Previous open interest 169944		
Dec 90	86.89	86.74	86.61	86.82	28138
Mar 91	88.07	88.17	87.98	87.91	17008
Three Month Eurodollar			Previous open interest 44603		
Dec 90	92.10	92.10	92.08	92.09	1288
Mar 91	92.45	92.46	92.44	92.44	1461
Three Month Euro DM			Previous open interest 75399		
Dec 90	90.95	90.97	90.94	90.95	7358
Mar 91	91.00	91.02	90.98	90.98	4879

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three month ECU			Previous open interest 1392		
Dec 90	88.96	88.96	88.90	88.89	170
US Treasury Bond			Previous open interest 7082		
Dec 90	93-16	93-19	93-10	93-15	2254
Long Gilt			Previous open interest 28426		
Dec 90	83-24	83-29	83-10	83-12	18517
Mar 91	84-08	84-08	83-85	83-24	206
Japanese Govt Bond			Previous open interest 871		
Dec 90	91.47	91.50	91.38	91.47	74
German Govt Bond			Previous open interest 102513		
Dec 90	82.15	82.15	81.94	82.00	17408
Mar 91	81.89	81.89	81.74	81.79	2888

COMMODITIES

LONDON OIL REPORTS - London 6pm

Crude oil prices were softer in line with an absence of new headlines from the Gulf. With the exception of Naphtha, prices eased with the futures. Gasoline is discounted to Naphtha.

CRUDE OILS/assessed ($/BBL FOB)

Brent Phys	33.00	-0.80
15 day Dec	32.40	-0.75
15 day Jan	31.25	-0.65
WTI Dec	32.40	-1.00
WTI Jan	31.70	-0.80

PRODUCTS Buy/sell $/MT.
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery

Prem Gas .15	-6	310-314	-6
Gasoil EEC	-1	300-302	-1
Non 1H Dec	-2	305-307	-2
Non 1H Jan	-2	294-296	-2
3.5 Fuel Oil	-1	126-130	-1
Naphtha	+5	315-319	+4

BIFFEX
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)
Nov 90 Hi 1305-1295 Low Close 1296
Dec 90 Hi 1303-1285 Low Close 1300
Jan 91 Hi 1260-1250 Low Close 1255
Apr 91 Hi 1220-1220 Low Close 1220
Vol 124 lots Open interest 3421
Dry cargo index 1287 +7

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL	AMT Futures
Dec	280.75-80.50
Jan	278.75-78.50
Feb	264.25-63.50
Mar	249.00-48.00
Apr	237.00-33.00
May	230.00-28.00
Jun	228.00-25.00
Vol	5658

BRENT	AMT Futures
Dec	32.35-32.45
Jan	31.20-31.25
Vol	n/a

LONDON POTATO FUTURES (£/tonne)

Mth	Open	Close
Feb	97.5	96.0
Apr	148.3	148.8
May	166.8	168.0

Vol 108

LONDON FOX

COCOA — Dec 858-857, Mar 701-700, May 728-727, Jul 752-750; AMT Futures Sep 774-771, Dec 801-800, Mar 828-826; Vol 3879

COFFEE — Nov 561-558, Jan 575-574, Mar 552-551, May 561-560; AMT Futures Jul 580-579, Sep 597-596, Nov 614-610; Vol 1687

SUGAR FOB — C Czarnikow; Vol: 1675
Dec 235.0-26.0 Aug 227.6-26.6
Mar 226.4-26.2 Oct 227.6-26.0
May 225.4-25.0 Dec 226.0-10.0

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT close (£/t) Vol 201
Nv 115.60 Ja 119.10 Mr 122.80
My 126.30 Jn 127.60 Sp 109.25
BARLEY close (£/t) Vol 53
Nv 113.00 Ja 116.80 Mr 119.00
My 120.00 Sp 107.50 Nv 110.75
SOYABEAN AMT Futures
Dec 104.0-00.0
Feb unq Vol 0

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official prices/volume previous day — Rudolf Wolff

(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol
Copper Gde A	1323.0-1324.0	1323.0-1324.0	842875
Lead	370.00-370.50	372.00-373.00	60225
Zinc Spec Hi*	1274.0-1275.0	1254.0-1255.0	124050
Tin*	6160-6170	6160-6165	7765
Aluminium Hi*	1613.0-1614.0	1643.0-1644.0	447000
Nickel*	8850.0-8875.0	8495.0-8500.0	11352

† (Cents per Troy oz). * ($ per tonne)

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (£/kg)

Live Pig Contract Mth	Open	Close
Nov	unq	95.8
Jan	unq	91.0
Feb	unq	93.8
Mar	unq	97.3
Live Cattle Contract		
Oct	unq	—
Nov	unq	—
Jan	unq	—

Vol Pig-5 Cattle-0

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Av'ge fatstock prices at representative markets on November 14

(kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB (p)	76.82	138.07	103.39
GB (+/-)	+0.11	-17.99	+0.56
Eng/Wal (%)	+14.0	-2.8	+4.0
Eng/Wal (p)	76.82	139.92	103.06
Eng/Wal (+/-)	+0.11	-18.69	+0.93
Scotland (%)	n/a	-47.3	-53.2
Scotland (p)	n/a	133.67	107.16
Scotland (+/-)	n/a	-18.21	+0.72

* Estimated dead carcase weight

هكذا من الأصل

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares weaker

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 5. Dealings end tomorrow. §Contango day November 19. Settlement day November 26. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.
(VOLUMES: PAGE 34).

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Lon Scot Bk	Banks,Discount	
2	Nat West (aa)	Banks,Discount	
3	Clarke Nickolls	Property	
4	Celestion	Industrials A-D	
5	Sovereign	Oil,Gas	
6	Haden MacLellan	Industrials E-K	
7	Chesterfield	Property	
8	CALA	Building,Roads	
9	Mountleigh	Property	
10	Cussins	Property	
11	Bilton (P)	Property	
12	More O'Ferrall	Paper,Print,Adv	
13	Land Sec (aa)	Property	
14	THORN EMI (aa)	Electricals	
15	BM Gp	Industrials A-D	
16	Allied Irish	Banks,Discount	
17	Abbey	Building,Roads	
18	Johnston	Industrials E-K	
19	CH Ind	Industrials A-D	
20	Estates Gen	Property	
21	Steetley	Building,Roads	
22	Stag Furniture	Industrials S-Z	
23	Boots (aa)	Industrials A-D	
24	Copson PLC	Building,Roads	
25	Speyhawk	Property	
26	Low & Bonar	Industrials L-R	
27	AB Food (aa)	Foods	
28	Wills Gp	Industrials S-Z	
29	Mersey Docks	Transport	
30	ADT (aa)	Industrials A-D	
31	McLeod Russel	Industrials L-R	
32	BPB Ind (aa)	Building,Roads	
33	Black (Peter)	Industrials A-D	
34	Gr Portland	Property	
35	Meyer Int	Building,Roads	
36	Walker, Greenbank	Industrials S-Z	
37	Pearson (aa)	Newspapers,Pub	
38	Blenheim Exhib	Newspapers,Pub	
39	Clifford Foods 'A'	Foods	
40	Taylor Woodrow (aa)	Building,Roads	
41	Highland Distl	Breweries	
42	Quadrant Group	Leisure	
43	Brixton	Property	
44	Rothmans 'B' (aa)	Tobaccos	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £12,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The winner of the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday was Mr Peter Rainer, of Stamford, Lincs.

Portfolio PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited

DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000

Claims required for +29 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

BREWERIES

BUILDING, ROADS

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E - K

L - R

S - Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 36

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHOES, LEATHER

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
78	37	Headlam	40	47●	+2	3.2	7.3	7.1
188	158	Lambert Howarth	160	165	..	14.1	7.7	10.7
141	32	Pittard Garnar	33	40	-5	1.0	2.7	3.2
140	10	Strong & Fisher				2.7		
343	278	Style	283	295	..	12.0	4.2	39.1

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

1990 High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Ch'ge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
653	518	BAT (aa)	553	557●	-3	41.5	7.5	9.6
865	587	Rothmans 'B' (aa)	680	685	+3	20.5	3.0	10.1

TRANSPORT

WATER

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

SPORTS LETTERS

Curbing anti-social actions

From the Reverend Charles Whitfield

Sir, Whilst not in any way condoning the fighting between the Arsenal and Manchester United players I feel that the real culprits have not been brought to book.

The problem is that the players look to the referees for protection. If the referee does not give the players this protection then they take things into their own hands. Hence the fighting.

Week after week we see the incompetence of referees both in not protecting the players from foul play and in giving different interpretations of the laws, so that for the same offence a player can either be sent off or booked or have no punishment.

It is up to the football authorities to see that the referees do their job properly. If they do not do their job, they should be removed.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES WHITFIELD,
Strawberry Cottage,
23 Chapel Meadow,
Buckland Monachorum,
Yelverton, Devon.

From Mrs Monica Hartland

Sir, No punishment meted out to the brawling football teams at Old Trafford (report, November 13) could have engendered total satisfaction. That the points deduction has infuriated both clubs and supporters, however, suggests that the learning of a salutary lesson may be in prospect.

Association football has for too long borne the brunt of all that is negative in sport, despite the overwhelming evidence that gross ill-discipline is the prerogative of others, with rugby football and lawn tennis the protagonists. If the brute violence of the former is unparalleled, the latter surely brooks no opposition with regard to verbal abuse and the demeaning of overly tolerant officials.

As a teacher, I can assure you that my job is the more difficult because of such appalling examples of well publicised anti-social behaviour. I hope that the disciplinary committees of those who play on school pitches or indeed on Hackney Marshes will, henceforth, be empowered to follow the commendably tough stance of the game's administrators.

Yours faithfully,
MONICA HARTLAND,
78 Burleigh Park,
Cobham,
Surrey.

Better Italian job

From Miss Gizelle Rahman

Sir, In Milan recently I was astonished to see trainers leading up their horses in the paddock while the lads looked on. By the end of the day most of these eminently respectable men had got their hands and feet dirty and were pretty tired. This sort of *ad hoc* strike action by the lads has apprently been blighting Italian racing over the last month.

In England the job of lad is done more for the love of horses than for the money; in Italy it is a well paid profession, embraced by a strong national union which won't take any nonsense. As the contract stands between the trainers, owners and the union, a lad earns around £750 net per month for exercising and looking after two horses and for working two weekends. On top of that he earns £5-£6 per day for each extra horse he does. In July and at Christmas he receives his "thirteenth" and "fourteenth" month's pay on top of his normal salary. He is entitled to 22 days' holiday a year.

When he leaves his employer he receives liquidation money which adds up to another month's wages for every year he has worked there. He is comprehensively insured, which means he receives full pay until he fully recovers from any injury sustained during work. The maximum payable for total disablement is £50,000. The pension sheme is worth up to £800 per month.

The lads are organised and perhaps because they have a little money in their pockets they are prepared to confront issues. Italian trainers are respected, but there is not the entrenched class system which divides lads and trainers over here. The recent problems result from a lock in relations over the union's refusal to meet the owners and trainers and demands for the new contract. It looks now as though the original contract will remain.

Although I'm not particularly in favour of strike action, here it shows that the Continent has caught up with the times, and that those employed in the dangerous occupation of riding and looking after racehorses are capable and deserving of looking after their own interests. For those who disapprove of striking in the racing world, the horses did not suffer. They were still fed, watered and exercised. Most of the pressure was put on during overtime hours.

If I was still employed in racing I would seriously consider working in Italy where it is not impossible for lads to buy their own horse or car they have always dreamed of. The only drawbacks for an English lad, as far as I can see, are that the quality of racehorse is not on the whole as good as in the UK, and the language problem.

Yours faithfully,
GIZELLE RAHMAN,
Home Farm,
Benhall,
Saxmundham,
Suffolk.

The old guard

From Mr Derek Severs

Sir, Mark Daniel (Sports Letters, November 8) queries whether there is any physically active sport apart from rugby fives which can match an age span of 51 years between international players.

Bowls used to be considered an old man's activity but the whole climate of the game has changed with the influx of a large number of younger players, bringing with them a highly competitive attitude.

In the Gloucestershire Bowling Association we take especial pride in the fact that this summer our triple won the national championship. The players involved were 20-year-old Andy Wills at lead, 79-year-old Jack Drummond Henderson at two and Terry Allcock (35) as skip. They represent the Cheltenham club and are an outstanding example of the friendship and compatibility that exists in the game of bowls. Also it will not escape Mr Daniel's notice that their time span is 59 years.

Next season, as English champions, they will compete in the British Isles championship, a truly international event.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK SEVERS
(Senior vice-president,
Gloucestershire Bowling
Association),
Holly Cottage,
Kilcot Lane,
Hillesley,
Wotton Under Edge,
Gloucestershire.

RFU must not ignore camera

From Dr J. B. Evans

Sir, The RFU statement on the Probyn affair (report, November 10) is a weak and muddled one. The expressed "concern about the wrong conclusions being drawn from televised pictures" is an attempt to cover up for refereeing mistakes and for their embarrassment.

Every winter weekend afternoon we see forward passes being missed and we accept this as inevitable. However, we should not refuse to accept proven evidence of foul play. Méndez first punched Probyn in the testicles (why can't the word be used?) and then grabbed them. Probyn stamped on Méndez in an attempt to gain release — and who wouldn't?

The statement does not refer to stamping because stamping is seldom acceptable, but it certainly was in these circumstances. I have not drawn the wrong conclusions from the television pictures. The first one is the surprising evidence that an 18-year-old was strong enough to prop against Probyn and the second was that Méndez should, by his tender age, have already decided that he should take the opportunity to punch and grab whatever is on offer. No Queensberry rules for him.

THe RFU is embarrassed by the bad publicity given to the game by this incident at its headquarters in an international. It is not Probyn's attempted escape that is embarrassing, but the assault that made escape necessary.

The way to stop similar future incidents is to let the players know that the camera will record their fouls — and not for the RFU to deny camera evidence.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. EVANS,
Orchard Hill,
Cross Oak Road,
Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire.

From Judge Nicholas Brandt

Sir, I, together with many others, am delighted that, after most careful consideration, the RFU panel has totally exonerated Jeffrey Probyn.

Am I, however, alone in wondering what "provocation" has to do with the Méndez/Ackford incident?

Whatever interpretation the members of the panel, which dealt with Méndez, may have put upon the Probyn/Méndez affair, the attack by Méndez on the wholly innocent Ackford was clearly separated from it both in space and time, not to mention victim.

Perhaps I am being legalistic or perhaps the Méndez panel should explain.

An advocate who tried to mitigate for his client's assault on Bloggins on the basis of "provocation" from Snoggins would get short shrift from the likes of,

Your obedient servant,
NICHOLAS BRANDT,
25 Southway,
Colchester,
Essex.

Wrongly focused

From Mr Edward Young

Sir, Before the five nations' rugby championship gets under way, and in preparation for the World Cup, it would be helpful to viewers if those responsible for television presentation would tighten up on their increasingly slack production habits. Last Saturday's international between Scotland and Argentina demonstrated a worsening of these habits.

The biggest sin is the boring visual cliché of the camera being automatically focused on the head and shoulders of the last payer who has done/not done something notable, while action is going on elsewhere or something off camera needs to be explained. This cliché is inevitable after a penalty kick at goal.

If the kick misses there is always the possibility of the ball being run out of defence in adventurous attack. Several times on Saturday this could have happened as Argentina bravely tried to save the game, but Gavin Hastings's head and shoulders took priority.

We even saw the beginnings of a quick throw-in from touch by Argentina before the camera automatically switched to the Scottish kicker, then hastily switched back to the live action just as the commentator was clearing his throat.

What made the presentation particularly inept was that this visual cliché was held and maintained for embarrassing lengths of time, longer than I can remember.

Marginally less boring, but equally irritating, is the habit of replays being shown while live action is taking place. Do we need replays of kicks at goal when the drop-out or kick-off has taken place? There are breaks in the game when replays can be shown without the viewer missing anything of interest. Live action, every time, must take precedence over replays.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD YOUNG,
Stile Park,
Willowglen Road,
Stornoway,
Isle of Lewis.

From Mr C. A. M. Forsyth

Sir, I write to complain about the camera coverage at last Saturday's rugby league international between Great Britain and Australia.

I refer to the excessive use of close-ups whenever an individual player goes on a run, when a wide picture would give a far better appreciation of the state of play.

Two bad examples were the tries scored by the Australians. When it was important for the viewer to see the positioning of supporting players and of the defence, and therefore the options open to the attacking player, the director concentrated on a close-up camera which cut out all the other players. Filling the screen with a player who could just as well have been running alone in his back garden gives the viewer a very narrow and unhelpful perspective.

Rugby is a team game. The promotion of the personality above the team is setting a regrettable and dangerous trend.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. M. FORSYTH,
The Old Manor House,
Rectory Road,
Taplow Village,
Buckinghamshire.

What's in a name?

From Mr M. Gee

Sir, The organiser of the recent world rowing championships in Tasmania was Mr Brian Roe.

Does this not leave the door wide open for, *inter alia:*

World table tennis: Ms Pong; hockey: Mr Stix; ski: Mr S. Lope?

Yours faithfully,
M. GEE,
263 Earlsfield Road, SW18.

Membership bid

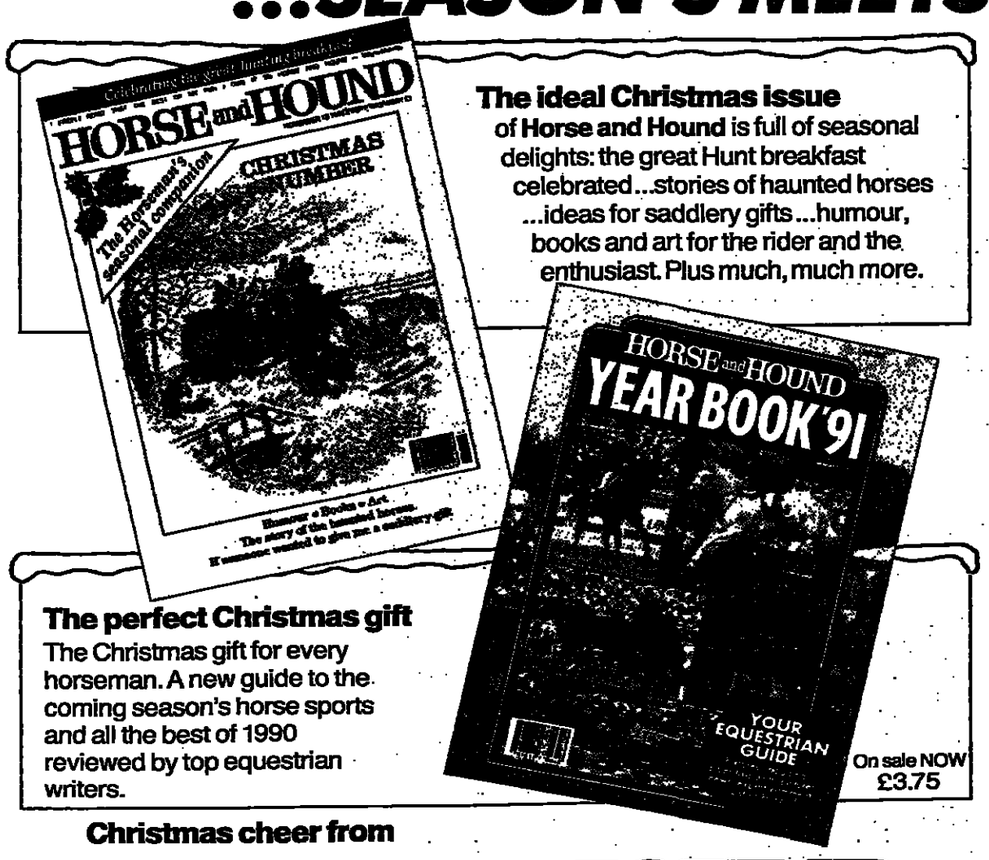
From the Reverend John Kirby

Sir, Was Mrs Thatcher's address to the Lord Mayor's banquet (report, November 13) a bid to become a member of the MCC?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KIRBY,
The Rectory,
Byfleet,
Surrey.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SEASON'S TREATS...
...SEASON'S MEETS



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Cup contest creates electric climate

Grandstand view: Allan, the Witton Albion manager, ponders over his side's chances of victory against Bolton

Witton's wait almost over

By WALTER GAMMIE

FA CUP

WITTON Albion head the HFS Loans League, with the prize of GM Vauxhall Conference football looming into view.

Yet it has needed the glamour and excitement of the FA Cup to light up a club all too used to playing second fiddle to their neighbours, Northwich Victoria.

"The atmosphere is electric," Stan Allan, the Witton manager, said. "It is 26 years since we got to the first round. Nobody can think about anything else; everything is about one game. On the day, it will be a full house."

The fact that Bolton Wanderers are Witton's opponents adds further allure. Allan said: "Bolton have won the Cup at Wembley four times. They are a team with a name; they bring a little bit of magic. I can remember it as not long ago that they won at Wembley: was it Nat Lofthouse's goals beating Manchester United?"

Indeed, it was in 1958 that Lofthouse scored both goals in a 2-0 triumph. It was probably one of the most unpopular wins as the nation was willing Matt Busby's babes to victory three months after the Munich air crash.

Bolton's most recent Wembley success was of humbler vintage — 4-1 over Torquay United in the Sherpa Van Trophy final in 1989.

The 1990 Witton Albion are undoubtedly a new breed. They are in only their second season at their Wincham Park ground and the club boasts no fewer than six of last year's Colne Dynamoes side, which won the HFS Loans League, were denied promotion and then folded in the summer.

"The old ground was a nice place but run down," Allan said. "We had gates of about 300. Now, we are getting gates of just under 1,000 and the club is going as good as any in non-League. We have the facilities to get into the Conference."

Allan had signed Karl Thomas, a free-scoring forward, from Colne, and Joe Connor, from Hyde — both for £10,000 in close-season transfers. When Colne collapsed, five others — Steve McNeils, Andy Lee, Andy Grimshaw, Stuart Anderson and Stuart Mason — also joined.

The manager himself was in the Skelmersdale United side which won the Amateur Cup, and he shared in repeated flirtations with FA Cup glory over 14 years as player, coach and assistant manager with Altrincham before moving to Witton four years ago.

Progress has been steady and Ian Dobson, aged 41, who took over as club chairman in February, is determined to maintain it. A bus and coach operator, Dobson sold the main part of his business last November and is therefore free to devote time to the club.

His first task was to repair the damage done by gales, which had blown the roof off the stand for a second time, and sort out a pitch whose ruts made it near unplayable. A new surface compete with sprinkler system, was laid for £100,000 in the close season.

Dobson said: "We hope to go up there into the Conference. We'd get two good games and attendances playing against Northwich. That is something that would also apply to playing Altrincham, Runcorn and Macclesfield. They've always been the top teams in Cheshire and we intend to keep going forward. My aim is the Football League. We've got the facilities for it."

Saturday, however, should belong to the long-suffering supporters who have lived under the shadow of the Vics. Dobson said: "It's great for the supporters. They work side by side with the Northwich supporters. On a Monday morning, football is the topic of conversation. They are used to being gloated over.

"It is a good friendly rivalry but it is nice for the lads to get something to be proud about. After being the butt of so many jokes, they can get revenge."

SQUASH RACKETS

The stars who fell to earth

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE international star system which won the Pimm's premier league championship for Leekes Wizards last season was this week directly responsible for a defeat which may come to be seen as cataclysmic by the end of the season.

Chris Robertson, of Australia, Mark Maclean, of Scotland and Jamie Hickox, of Canada, all of whom had just returned from the competitive and social demands of the world open championship in Toulouse, fell to the fresher but lower-ranked legs of Colin Keith, Simon Taylor and Geoff Williams in the match against Team Allsports in Manchester.

The Leekes Englishman, Peter Marshall, managed to salvage a point against Phil Whitlock, but the result converts a hopeful marginal Welsh leadership to a potentially disastrous five-point deficit behind Carlisle Cannons.

The London side earned six grimly professional points on wet-walled, slippery courts at North Walsham in what had looked to be the fixture of the season, with four present champions and two former champions present.

On a humid evening in Norfolk, with 300 spectators packed behind poorly ventilated courts and creating condensation, Chris Dittmar defeated Rodney Martin in a clash of former and present Australian champions. The British champion, Del Harris beat the European champion, Chris Walker; the former British champion, Paul Carter outlasted Tony Hands; and the junior world champion, Simon Parke overwhelmed Stephen Lankester.

RESULTS: Pimm's premier league results: Team Allsports 3, Leekes Wizards 1; North Wanham 0, Carlisle Cannons 4; GT Sports Abbeydale 2, Lyric Surbiton 2; Mosaic Priory 2, Stars and Stripes 2. League positions: Cannons, 17pts; Leekes, 12; Allsports, 10; Levitt Lambs, 10; Priory, 7; Surbiton, 7; Stars and Stripes, 4; Abbeydale 4, North Wanham 1.

● The Squash Rackets Association yesterday announced a £110,000 sponsorship of the national championships by the charity, Fight for Sight, which is aiming to gain national profile and access to the three-million-strong squash-playing community by utilising its advertising budget to finance the elite national championships in Newcastle next January and a nationwide grassroots challenge event throughout the year.

● KARACHI: Jahangir Khan is to lodge a complaint against Chris Dittmar, president of the International Squash Players' Association, for maligning Pakistan. Dittmar effectively said a future grand prix circuit might miss Pakistan because sponsors were not interested and other players did not like going to that country.

RUGBY UNION

Richardson leads way to play-offs

By MICHAEL STEVENSON

Bradford Univ 3
Loughborough Univ..... 44

A STORMING game by Loughborough's talented flanker, Richardson, well supported by Millward and Peters in a fine pack helped them to a comfortable victory at Bradford University by five goals, two tries and two penalties to a dropped goal.

Loughborough have won their three qualifying games in the UAU championship comfortably to earn a home tie in the play-off stage, which will probably be against Newcastle University. They played splendidly in bursts, then would go to sleep for a period, only to wake up and again play the most delightful rugby.

Loughborough went ahead when the home side killed a ruck and Malone, the Ireland under-21 stand-off, kicked the penalty. Pressure was maintained and from a tap penalty Peters put Billington in for the first try. Their next came from possibly the best move of the match. Johnson took Miles's pass on the blind side, Malone looped, and Dossett and Wisheart handled fluently to make a try for the forceful Richardson. Malone converted.

Loughborough have not conceded a try in UAU matches this season but they came close to doing so when Plenderith was tackled inches short under the posts and seconds later Dixon registered the losers' only points with a long dropped goal, which was answered immediately by Malone's second penalty to make it 16-3 at the interval.

With the diagonal wind favouring Loughborough they went further ahead with a try from Miles from a lineout near the Bradford line and Peters touched down a pushover try, which Malone converted.

Irving and Miles registered further tries for Loughborough, with Malone kicking two more conversions.

SCORERS: Bradford University: Dropped goal: Dixon. Loughborough University: Tries: Miles (2), Billington, Richardson, Peters, Wisheart, Irving. Conversions: Malone (5). Penalties: Malone (2).

BRADFORD UNIVERSITY: M Bowers; G Lynch, D Thomas, S Redpath, T Horsfield; A Dixon, R Plenderith; I Clafton, W Foy, C Hartnack, N Charlton, P Stott, P Harwood, R Stevens, K O'Connell.

LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY: C Dossett; M Wisheart, J Irving, S Johnson, A Billington; N Malone, P Miles; M Ireland, R Taylor, N Lowton, C Carroll, M Wright, A Millward, N Richardson, E Peters.

Referee: D Bonner (Yorkshire).

Andrew leads London

ROB Andrew, the England stand-off half, will lead London's challenge for a treble of divisional titles next month, taking over from David Pegler.

Andrew will be partnered by Chris Wright, at scrum half, for Wasps' televised league game against Rosslyn Park on Saturday. Steve Pilgrim and Rob Lozowski return from injury with Graham Childs moving to the left wing.

● Simon Robson, the England B scrum half who failed to appear at Moseley for a fortnight after being dropped, has joined Liverpool St Helens.

● South Wales Police have called off their match with Glamorgan Wanderers on Saturday because so many officers are needed at the Barbarians' match with Argentina and at two FA Cup football ties.

● Andrew Morgan, the former Llanelli and Haverfordwest wing, has been stopped from playing for Tenby United in the Heineken League as only one transfer is allowed per season.

MOTOR RACING

Plans for new track at Brands

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

WORK has begun on a multi-million pound development aimed at reinforcing Brands Hatch's status as an important international circuit.

The first phase, due to be completed next spring, is the construction of an administration block. Far-reaching plans are also in hand to upgrade the pit area, a necessary step if the circuit is to have a long-term future as a venue for big international events.

Consultants have been commissioned to report on the best way of providing the required facilities and have been given a free hand not only to submit proposals within the constraints of the existing two circuits but also to offer more radical solutions that could involve substantial realignment of the race track.

Brands Hatch Circuits Limited owns substantial areas of land to the north of the existing motor-racing facility, some of which could be brought into use as part of a revised track if a serious bid is one day to be mounted for a return of Formula One racing to the Kent circuit.

However, any reconstruction work of this magnitude, should it be given the go-ahead, is unlikely to begin for at least two years. Although Silverstone holds the contract for staging the British grand prix until 1997, the possibility of more than one Formula One race per season being sanctioned in this country before that date cannot be ruled out.

Mary Foulston, chairman of Brands Hatch Leisure plc, said: "It is one of my personal goals to retain Brands Hatch as one of the world's premier venues for motor racing."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

PREMIER INTER-LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Windsor and Eton v Dorchester.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: West Ham v Arsenal (7.0).

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Wasps v Oxford University.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE: Second division: Bramley v Rochdale Hornets.

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: Pat Barrett v Eduardo Jacques (Oldham Leisure Centre).

SWIMMING: TSB National winter championships (world championship qualifier) (Coventry, 3.0).

TENNIS: Texaco women's challenger (Swindon).

SPORT ON TV

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Screensport 07.00-09.00 and 23.00-01.00: College matches. BBB 14.00-15.00: National Football League.

BOBSLEIGH: Eurosport 20.30-21.30: Highlights of the world championships from St Moritz.

BOXING: Screensport 14.00-15.30: Professional event. BBB 20.00-midnight and 01.30-05.30 (tomorrow) (both with tennis).

EQUESTRIANISM: Screensport 12.00-13.30: Highlights of the National Horse Show from New York. Eurosport 17.00-18.00: Highlights of the Breeder's Cup from The Netherlands.

EUROSPORT NEWS: Eurosport 18.30-19.00 and 23.00-23.30.

FOOTBALL: Screensport 21.00-23.00: Argentinian league. Eurosport 21.30-23.00.

GOLF: BBB 12.30-13.00: US PGA.

HANDBALL: Eurosport 13.30-14.30: Highlights of the International Cup from Sweden.

ICE SKATING: Eurosport 10.00-12.00 and 19.30-20.30: Highlights of the Trophee Lalique and Skate Canada.

JUDO: Eurosport 19.00-19.30: Highlights of the European championships.

MARTIAL ARTS FESTIVAL: Eurosport 11.30-00.30: From Paris.

MOBILE MOTOR SPORTS NEWS: Eurosport 18.00-18.30.

MOTOR SPORT: Screensport 15.30-16.30 and 18.00-21.00: Highlights of dragster racing, the Porsche Cup and the IMSA GTP.

MULTI-SPORTS: Eurosport 12.30-13.30: Highlights of the World Games.

RACING: BBB 13.30-14.00 and 01.00-01.30 (tomorrow): Racing news.

RAFT RACING: Eurosport 14.30-15.00.

SNOOKER: Screensport 10.00-12.00: Highlights of the women's world championship.

SPORTSDESK: BBB 13.25, 18.00, 19.30 and midnight.

TABLE TENNIS: Eurosport 09.00-10.00: Highlights of the US Open championships.

TENNIS: Eurosport 15.00-17.00: Highlights of the Dutch indoor tournament from The Hague. BBB 15.00-18.00, 20.00-midnight (with Boxing) and 01.30-05.30 (tomorrow) (with Boxing): The ATP World Tour Championship.

TENPIN BOWLING: Screensport 09.00-10.00: Highlights of the Dutch Open from The Hague.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report November 15 1990

Queen's Bench Division

Taxable cost of in-house benefit

Pepper (Inspector of Taxes) v Hart (and related appeals)

Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Farquharson

[Judgment November 13]

Members of staff at Malvern College whose sons were educated at the school under a concessionary fees scheme received a taxable benefit. Section 63(2) of the Finance Act 1976 required the amount of that benefit to be the difference between the amount paid under the scheme and a proper rateable proportion of the general running expenses of the school.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing appeals by the taxpayers, nine members of the college staff, from the judgment of Mr Justice Vinelott (*The Times* December 8, 1989; [1990] 1 WLR 204) that had allowed the Crown's appeals from determinations by a special commissioner in respect of a number of Schedule E assessments to tax for years from 1983 to 1986.

The taxpayers were given leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The taxpayers had their sons educated at the college at concessionary fees amounting to one-fifth of those payable for other pupils. The college had a discretion to withdraw the concessionary scheme at any time.

During the years under appeal it had sufficient surplus capacity to take the taxpayers' sons without turning away other boys who could satisfy the educational entry requirements.

The taxpayers did not dispute that for the purposes of Schedule E liability they had received benefits liable to be treated as emoluments of their employment under section 61(1) of the 1976 Act.

However, they contended that the cash equivalent of the benefit was to be determined under the principle of marginal costing: that was solely taking into account the additional cost to the college of providing those boys with such items as food, laundry and stationery and excluding the cost to the school of its overhead running expenses.

The special commissioner accepted their case concluding that the one-fifth payments had made good the cost of providing the benefits received.

Section 61 of the 1976 Act charged to Schedule E tax any benefits of the employment of a higher-paid employee.

By section 63(1) the cash equivalent of a benefit "is an amount equal to the cost of the benefit, less so much (if any) of it as is made good by the employee to those providing the benefit".

By section 63(2) the cost of a benefit "is the amount of any expense incurred in or in connection with its provision, and ... includes a proper proportion of any expense relating partly to the benefit and partly to other matters".

The provisions are now contained in sections 154 and 156 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

Mr Stephen Oliver, QC and Mr Jeremy Woolf for the taxpayers; Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that benefits in kind had been a feature of employment for many years. They could be divided into two categories.

1 "External benefits" where the benefit was not directly related to any business carried on by the employer: for example, provision of a car or medical insurance.

2 "In-house benefits" where the employer permitted employees to acquire his goods or services at a reduced price, for example, provision of air tickets by an airline company at cut prices.

In taxing those benefits Parliament had not adopted a "market value" test. Instead it had adopted a formula looking at the expense incurred by the employer in providing the benefit. In the normal way that approach would be more favourable to employees.

External benefits

No particular difficulty arose in applying the section 61(2) formula: the expense incurred by the employer in acquiring the goods or services for an employee should be readily identifiable.

But one point of importance was to be noted. If the benefit comprised a facility which the employer maintained for use by his employees, such as a swimming pool, the statutory formula required that the maintenance expenses were apportionable among all relevant employees.

The point was important as it illustrated that the statutory formula could not sensibly be interpreted as applying only to the extra expense directly incurred in providing the benefit to the particular taxpayer whose affairs were under consideration.

In-house benefits

Likewise, with one exception, there was no particular difficulty in principle in applying the formula. An employer incurred expense in acquiring his stock-in-trade. If then he made it available to his employees at discounted rates the statutory formula applied to the expense incurred in providing the goods and would include an element in respect of the employer's overheads.

The point that caused initial difficulty concerned cases, such as the present, where the benefit was an in-house benefit and consisted of the use of surplus capacity in services supplied by an employer for his customers.

The case of an airline permitting staff to travel free in seats unoccupied by fare-paying passengers was in point. The man in the street, if asked how much the provision of such a stand-by benefit cost the employer, would answer "nothing".

The seat on the plane would have remained empty and wasted: the airline incurred no expense in permitting the air hostess to occupy it as she travelled abroad on holiday.

At first sight that was an attractive approach. The flaw was that it looked at the question from the wrong angle. The statutory formula was not concerned with what an employer could be said to have lost by providing the benefit.

It was concerned exclusively with calculating the amount of the expense incurred by the employer in providing the benefit. It had, of course, to be applied having due regard to the circumstances in which and for which the expense was incurred and the nature of the benefit under consideration.

But there was no escape from the conclusion that the fact that an in-house benefit comprised use of surplus capacity did not, of itself, affect the expense calculation which the statutory formula called for.

If that was correct it had to follow that the appeals failed. The benefit enjoyed by the taxpayers consisted of the opportunity for their boys to have a place in the school and make use of all the school facilities.

Each place in the school cost the school as much as every other place. Thus the expense incurred by the school in providing that benefit for any one member of the staff was a proper proportion of the general running expenses of the school, since those expenses related partly to the benefit provided for the bursar and partly to "other matters".

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, concurring, added that he had an uneasy suspicion that the legislature in drafting section 63(2) had not directed its mind to the case where an employer, whose business consisted of the provision of services to the public, conferred on his employees a benefit consisting of the use of surplus capacity in the services supplied by him for his customers.

Had the legislature's attention been directed to the instant case it might have provided for it in a somewhat different way.

Lord Justice Farquharson agreed.

Solicitors: Jagger Son & Tilley, Birmingham; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Plaintiff can sue for pre-birth injury

B v Islington Health Authority

Before Mr Justice Potts

[Judgment September 25]

A plaintiff born with injuries caused by the pre-natal neglect of the defendant had a cause of action in negligence against him in respect of those injuries. The fact that the plaintiff was undefined in law and without status when the train of events which resulted in that damage was set in motion was irrelevant.

Mr Justice Potts so held in a judgment given in the Queen's Bench Division at Manchester in dismissing an application by the defendants, Islington Health Authority, to strike out the plaintiff's claim for negligence.

Mr Alastair J. Forrest for the plaintiff; Mr John O. B. Grace for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE POTTS said that the statement of claim alleged, *inter alia*, that on September 6, 1966 the plaintiff's mother underwent a dilation and curettage (D and C) at the Whittington Hospital, that at the time the plaintiff's mother was in fact pregnant with the plaintiff to whom she gave birth on April 26, 1967 and that the medical staff at the hospital were negligent in and about the performance of the D and C procedure.

As a result it was alleged that the plaintiff was born with numerous abnormalities. She would be unable to conceive and was greatly embarrassed by her appearance.

She had undergone surgery with a resultant scar which extended from her back underneath her shoulder blade to below her diaphragm. The cosmetic deficit was such that it was likely to impede her relationships with the opposite sex and impair her earning capacity.

It was to be emphasised that the present hearing was not a trial of the merits of the plaintiff's claim. No evidence had been adduced by either side. The application had proceeded on the basis that the allegations in the statement of claim would be made out.

Both counsel had made submissions on the basis that on September 6 the plaintiff was an embryo within the womb of her mother and was not at that time capable of being born alive.

The plaintiff's claim was grounded in negligence. The defendants submitted that the tort of negligence contained three component elements: the duty of care, breach of that duty and resulting damage.

It was submitted that since on September 6 when her mother underwent the D and C, the plaintiff had no legal status and therefore no right to sue; no duty of care was or could be owed to her by the defendants. Thus, it was said, two of the essential elements of negligence could not be made out of the statement of claim and the plaintiff failed at the first hurdle.

There was no English authority on the issue. The Congenital Disabilities (Civil Liability Act) 1976 made provision as to civil liability in the case of children born disabled in consequence of some person's fault, but section 4(5) made the Act apply only to births after, but not before, its passing. Thus the plaintiff born in 1967 could derive no advantage from it.

Assuming the allegations of fact alleged in the statement of claim to be made out and the allegations of negligence made therein well founded, his Lordship was of the view that when the defendants' staff prepared for and performed the D and C on the plaintiff's mother, they ought reasonably to have foreseen that an embryo then being carried by the mother in her womb was liable to be damaged in the procedure with the result that the living child was liable to be born injured.

In his Lordship's judgment, a reasonable medical person carrying out a D and C would take account of the risk of causing injury to the embryo in the womb and the consequent risk of the child being born injured and with abnormalities.

Thus on established principles, were it not for the fact that, at what the defendants submitted was the material time, namely, September 1966 the plaintiff had no right to sue, his Lordship would have had no hesitation in finding that the defendants owed her a duty of care.

In the Australian case of *Watt v Rama* ([1972] VR 353) the essential question posed was whether a plaintiff born with injuries caused by the pre-natal neglect of the defendant had a cause of action in negligence against him in respect of those injuries.

That analysis of the question effectively stated the issue in the present case. In his Lordship's view, the fact that the negligent act which caused the injury was not contemporaneous with the injury itself was not a bar to recovery.

The actual damage suffered by the plaintiff, that was, being born suffering from physical abnormalities, was "potential damage which was foreseeable" and was the result of the breach of a "possible duty": see Lord Pearson in *Dorset Yacht Company Ltd v Home Office* ([1970] AC 1004).

The fact that the plaintiff was undefined in law and without status when the train of events which resulted in that damage was set in motion was neither here nor there.

Thus in the instant case, at the time of the negligent act or omission there was in law "no specific person towards whom the duty could be said to exist.": see *Grant v Australian Knitting Mills Ltd* ([1936] AC 85). The embryo might have aborted or have been born dead.

However, what had been a "potential" or "contingent" duty vested on the birth of the live plaintiff suffering from physical abnormalities caused by the earlier negligent act.

Provided that the other requirements specified by Lord Wright in *Australia Knitting Mills* and Lord Pearson in *Dorset Yacht* were fulfilled, it was sufficient for the defendant's duty of care to be "potential" or "contingent" or "possible."

In his Lordship's view, there was no requirement in this branch of English law for the plaintiff and defendant to possess correlative rights and duties at the time of the wrongful act.

The fact that damage was done to the embryo in September 1966 was an "evidentiary fact relevant to causation": *Watt v Rama*. If there was neglect in the D and C procedure in breach of proper medical practice the risk of injury on birth to a child then being carried by the patient mother was reasonably foreseeable.

The circumstances created a contingent or potential duty on the defendants which crystallised on birth of the injured child. The wrong to the child was then complete, she having been born alive physically damaged as a result of the defendants' earlier neglect.

On birth, the child acquired legal status and legal rights. Thus her cause of action in negligence was complete and accrued to her when she was a legal person who could sue or be sued.

His Lordship therefore rejected the defendants' principle submission.

Mr Grace also submitted that there were reasons of public policy for not recognising the cause of action. He argued that were the plaintiff to succeed, a wide range of potential defendants would come into being extending far beyond the class blamed in the present case.

Since his Lordship had rejected Mr Grace's principle argument, he took the view that it was not open to him to deny the plaintiff her right to sue on the ground that an action brought by her would be contrary to public policy.

Solicitors: Pannone Blackburn, Manchester; Beachcroft Stanleys.

Restraint order affects third party

In re W

Before Mr Justice Buckley

[Judgment September 12]

A restraint order, made under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, freezing the assets of a defendant in criminal proceedings with the intention that they would be available to meet a confiscation order, could not be varied on the application of a bona fide third-party judgment creditor so as to permit the judgment sum to be paid.

Mr Justice Buckley so held in the Queen's Bench Division in giving judgment in open court following an application in chambers in the case of W.

Mr Michael Stephens for the applicant; Mr Barry Gregory of the CPS.

MR JUSTICE BUCKLEY said that the judgment creditor was entitled to make the application as she was a "person affected" by the order within the meaning of section 77(7).

However, it was clear from section 82 that the purpose of a restraint order was to make available the value of realisable property to satisfy a confiscation order which had or might be made.

Subsection (4) expressly protected third parties who might have an interest in any of the realisable property, but the applicant did not have an interest in the frozen moneys.

Subsection (6) provided: "... no account shall be taken of any obligations of the defendant ... which conflict with the obligation to satisfy the confiscation order."

Assuming that "obligations" included debts, the satisfaction of the confiscation order took priority. As "obligations" was given no special meaning in the definition section of the Act the assumption was justified.

Solicitors: Lyon Clark, West Bromwich; CPS, HQ.

Unfortunate anomaly

London Electricity Board v Xyllyx (UK) Ltd and Another

It was unfortunate and anomalous that a respondent seeking to have an appeal struck out under Order 59, rule 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court had to make his application to the full Court of Appeal.

Lord Justice Nicholls so stated on October 9 when agreeing with Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Farquharson to grant an application by the London Electricity Board to strike out a notice of appeal by the appellant, Mr Colin John Slinn, from a judgment in Weymouth County Court due to his failure to set his appeal down for hearing.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS said that according to the notes to Order 59, rule 14 on p962 of *The Supreme Court Practice 1991* the application had to be made to the full court.

The result appeared anomalous because according to the same notes an application to extend time to set down was to be made to the Registrar of Civil Appeals. It was unfortunate that an applicant should be put to the expense of making his application to the Court of Appeal.

Discretion fettered

In re B (a Minor)

An order that the father should have care and control of a child so long as the child resided in the former matrimonial home improperly fettered the discretion of the registrar to order a sale of the house in ancillary relief proceedings between the parents.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss) so held on October 31 when allowing an appeal by the mother from Judge Baker, who had made the order at Guildford County Court.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that the mother had resisted the father's application before the judge arguing that the care and ancillary proceedings should be dealt with together.

The judge had therefore been placed in the difficult position of having to make the care order without knowing whether the father would be able to keep the former matrimonial home as his and the child's residence.

The mother now realised that the father's application should not have been opposed and that the appeal had become necessary because the application had been refused.

Where the decision as to the child impinged on the decision as to the house and the decision as to the house impinged on the decision as to the child, it was highly desirable that both matters should be dealt with by the same judge at the same time.

Overturning jury

Regina v Smith (Anthony)

On very rare occasions the Court of Appeal could and would intervene if upon an appraisal of the evidence it took the view that a miscarriage of justice had occurred.

However, the utmost care had always to be taken not to usurp the function of the jury, particularly in cases that depended entirely upon the veracity of witnesses, where the manner in which evidence was given as well as its content could be of vital importance.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Drake and Mr Justice Morland) so held on November 7 in rejecting an appeal by Anthony Smith against his conviction on two charges of attempted rape and one of indecent assault on February 9, 1990 at Liverpool Crown Court (Judge Naylor and a jury), for which he was sentenced to a total of seven years imprisonment.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL said the appellant had been convicted on the uncorroborated evidence of the complainant, a girl aged 14.

The court had looked very carefully at the transcript of the evidence as well as the summing up. The court was less favourably placed than the jury to decide where the truth lay and was not persuaded that it would be right to intervene because of the absence of corroboration.

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Curing the evil has only inflamed the fire

Cricket's laws abound in all shapes and forms, some more contentious than others. In his third and final article, Sir Donald Bradman calls on the authorities to see sense over the complex and controversial front-foot no-ball rule for bowlers

There are cricket laws that could do with scrutiny or are crying out for revision, such as, for instance, the front-foot no-ball law, which in my view is a disaster. The original no-ball law required the bowler to deliver the ball with one foot on the ground behind the bowling crease. That was interpreted sensibly by umpires as meaning "in the process of delivering the ball", and I can't remember any complaint about the law until after World War II — which means it proved adequate for over 200 years.

Then, some enterprising fellow with a high-speed slow-motion camera produced film to show that certain bowlers — Ray Lindwall was one of the prime targets — had a very long drag and clearly had the ball in hand after the back foot had crossed the bowling crease. This evidence apparently goaded the MCC into action and, in 1947, it altered the law and made it read that the offending foot had to be behind the bowling crease "at the instant of delivery". The new wording was manna from heaven for the photographers, who now proceeded to show that almost every bowler offended under the new wording.

The words "instant of delivery" were absolutely precise and, instead of interpreting the law with common sense as meaning "in the process of delivering the ball", the umpires now found themselves *directed* to adjudicate on that split fraction of a second as the ball left the hand.

The change in the wording was utterly stupid because no umpire can possibly watch simultaneously the hand and the foot. To get around the new absurdity, a sensible and reasonable measure of control was adopted whereby the umpire, in the case of draggers, was empowered to use a disc or marker that was placed at a sufficient distance behind the bowling crease to offset the bowler's drag, the disc in effect becoming the bowling crease.

As evidence of the effectiveness of this measure, I would point out that, in my 1948 tour of England, Ray Lindwall was my principle fast bowler yet, in the whole five Tests, the no-balls debited against the Australian bowlers in each Test averaged just under three.

A further complication reared its head about this time when a handful of bowlers appeared to combine excessive drag with a doubtful bowling ation. I know that certain English batsmen linked drag and throw as related evils. Cure one, they said, you cure the other. Despite an affinity in one particular case, they were not necessarily bed fellows.

Two of the longest draggers were Ray Lindwall and Fred Trueman and both had perfect bowling actions with no semblance of a throw. Indeed, the "throwing" problem was completely eradicated by a change in the definition of a throw, a change brought about mainly through suggestions that emanated from discussions between my late friend, Sir George Allen, and me. The new wording was totally unrelated to the position of the feet or to drag.

Despite undeniable evidence that the drag was well under control, there remained opponents of the law who magnified certain minor and quite unimportant flaws concerning the use of the disc.

Finally, after a short period of experimentation, MCC altered the law to make the deciding criterion the position of the front foot as it related to the *batting* crease — not the bowling crease — the latter now bcoming utterly redundant.

The new law made a mockery of one that had stood the test of time for over two centuries. Bowlers could now place both feet clearly ahead of the defunct bowling crease. Many proceeded to do so, and still do. So long as the bowler's front foot was not over the *batting* crease, he was in the clear. One of the original complaints, the fact that he had the ball in his hand after the back foot crossed the bowling crease, which virtually every bowler did and still does, was ignored.

Australia's legislators were almost totally opposed to the MCC decision. In due course, I was stunned to be told by a gentleman who was at the fatal meeting when the change was approved that, in response to a query, members present were informed that Australia supported the change. This may well have influenced the vote and was, of course, untrue.

Sadly, the pro-front footers won the day. They had eliminated drag and made it irrelevant. But they were short-sighted because, in curing one evil, they had not perceived that they were creating a worse problem. Alec Bedser, a strong advocate in favour of judgment via the back foot, makes the cogent point that bowlers, at the point of delivery, need to be concentrating on where to pitch the ball. The last thing they need is to be distracted, even subconsciously, by having to worry about where the front foot is going to land.

Alec feels this is very important, especially for up-and-coming young bowlers just learning their trade. Front-foot jurisdiction in its technical application is wrong and detracts from the development of a rhythmic and fluent action.

When the West Indians were last in Australia, they bowled a plethora of no-balls from which hardly a run was made off the bat because the batsmen mostly played the ball before they heard the belated front-foot no-ball call. The West Indians failed to bowl their required 90 overs a day (and were heavily fined) primarily because no-balls are not counted in the overs. Ninety six-ball overs equal 540 balls. The 540 balls, of which 36 are called no-balls, come to only 84 overs. The situation was really farcical. In one Sheffield Shield match last season, the fielding side conceded no less than 56 no-balls — top score for the innings.

All of this is bad enough but is not nearly so bad as the problem confronting umpires. They must wait until the front foot hits the ground before making a call. There is often a split second before the umpire makes his decision and, by the time he looks up, the ball from fast bowlers has sometimes reached the striker. The time during which the umpire must make an adjudication on a leg-before or caught behind, a fraction of a second, is markedly reduced.

Officially, umpires are reluctant to complain. Unofficially, many of them admit that mistakes are sometimes made and are caused by this wretched law. There are other problems with the law but space limitations prevent me going into them in detail.

Ever since this law came in, I have worked unceasingly (but so far without success) to have it changed to the original back-foot determination and, almost without exception, I believe I have the support in Australia of players, ex-players, umpires, administrators and, for sure, the general public. The matter is important and it is high time the MCC admitted the present situation is totally unsatisfactory and made a change acceptable to all-Test match-playing countries.

Another hot potato is the number of overs to be bowled in a day. MCC has been trying to grapple with this problem for a long time. Press reports on the recent Test series in the West Indies indicate that both sides virtually ignored the official recommendations. The fight must go on. There is something radically wrong when the players of today can't bowl even 90 overs a day whereas those of the 1920s had no difficulty in getting through nearer 120. This is hardly value for those who pay to watch.

I have unashamedly used this *ABC* publication as a forum for expressing my personal views, knowing some of them to be controversial. Though I no longer hold any administrative position and therefore do not take part in the making of decisions, I retain a passionate desire to see cricket being played under rules and conditions that are not only the right ones, practically and technically, for those who play but also create the maximum simplicity and employment for spectators.

I am now an old man but am not one of those who thinks everything was better "in my day". I hope and believe I am still able to discern good from bad with a detached mind. Against the views perhaps held by a majority of the oldies, I like one-day cricket. Despite its anomalies and weaknesses, it forces players to get on with the game. Not all the strokes played are out of the coaching manual but they are exciting.

The standard of fielding has improved enormously — cricket under lights with the white ball is wonderful and fascinating — the public are entertained and they see results in one day. That in no sense detracts from the truth that Test matches, played at the right tempo and in the right spirit, are still the pinnacle of skill. I hope the future will embrace and make the best of both types of entertainment.

● Taken from *The ABC Australian Cricket Almanac*, published last month by ABC Books. Further details from the ABC, 54, Portland Place, London W1N 4DY.

England's leading scorer puts a turbulent week behind him as he assumes a commanding presence in an idyllic setting

Atherton ready for battle to begin

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
HOBART

THE first English team to visit Tasmania, 130 years ago, patronised the colonials to the extent of allowing them 22 players. It still proved insufficient, as the island side managed to lose 17 wickets before lunch on the opening day.

England 1990 did not find the contemporary Tasmanians quite such a pushover yesterday, but to say they were stretched to win by eight wickets would be a gross overstatement.

A day on one of Australia's loveliest grounds, with the yachts and windsurfers on the Derwent River an idyllic backcloth, may have restored some of the touring team's equilibrium after a turbulent week, and a victory of any sort is a welcome tonic to a side attracting scorn and sympathy in equal measures.

This, however, was never likely to be one of the more demanding or instructive days of the tour. The sight of Bob Simpson, the national coach, busily supervising practice for the Australian XI who meet England over four days, starting tomorrow, was a reminder that the stakes are raised from here on in.

If Simpson found the time to observe the action in the middle at Bellerive Oval, it would undoubtedly have struck him that two of England's essential components, Fraser and Atherton, look ready for battle to commence.

Fraser, whose consistency with the ball is critical if England are to have any chance, was immediately rhythmical and accurate after a week off, conceding only 25 runs in his ten overs and dismissing Australia's Test No. 3, Boon, as one of his two wickets.

Scoreboard

TASMANIA

M G Farrell c Stewart b Lewis	36
*D M Wellham run out	63
D C Boon c and b Fraser	16
J Cox c Larkins b Lewis	14
R J Tucker b Fraser	11
G R Robertson b Lewis	0
S Young not out	22
†T Coyle not out	3
Extras (lb 6, nb 2)	8
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	173

D R Gilbert, G D Campbell and P T McPhee did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-110, 3-130, 4-136, 5-137, 6-159.

BOWLING: Fraser 10-2-25-2; Bicknell 10-2-25-0; Small 10-0-37-0; Hemmings 10-1-44-0; Lewis 10-1-36-3.

ENGLAND XI

M A Atherton not out	88
W Larkins b Tucker	27
D I Gower st Coyle b Robertson	30
*A J Lamb not out	19
Extras (b 3, lb 3, w 5)	11
Total (2 wkts, 46 overs)	175

R A Smith, †A J Stewart, C C Lewis, G C Small, E E Hemmings, A R C Fraser and M P Bicknell did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-75, 2-134.

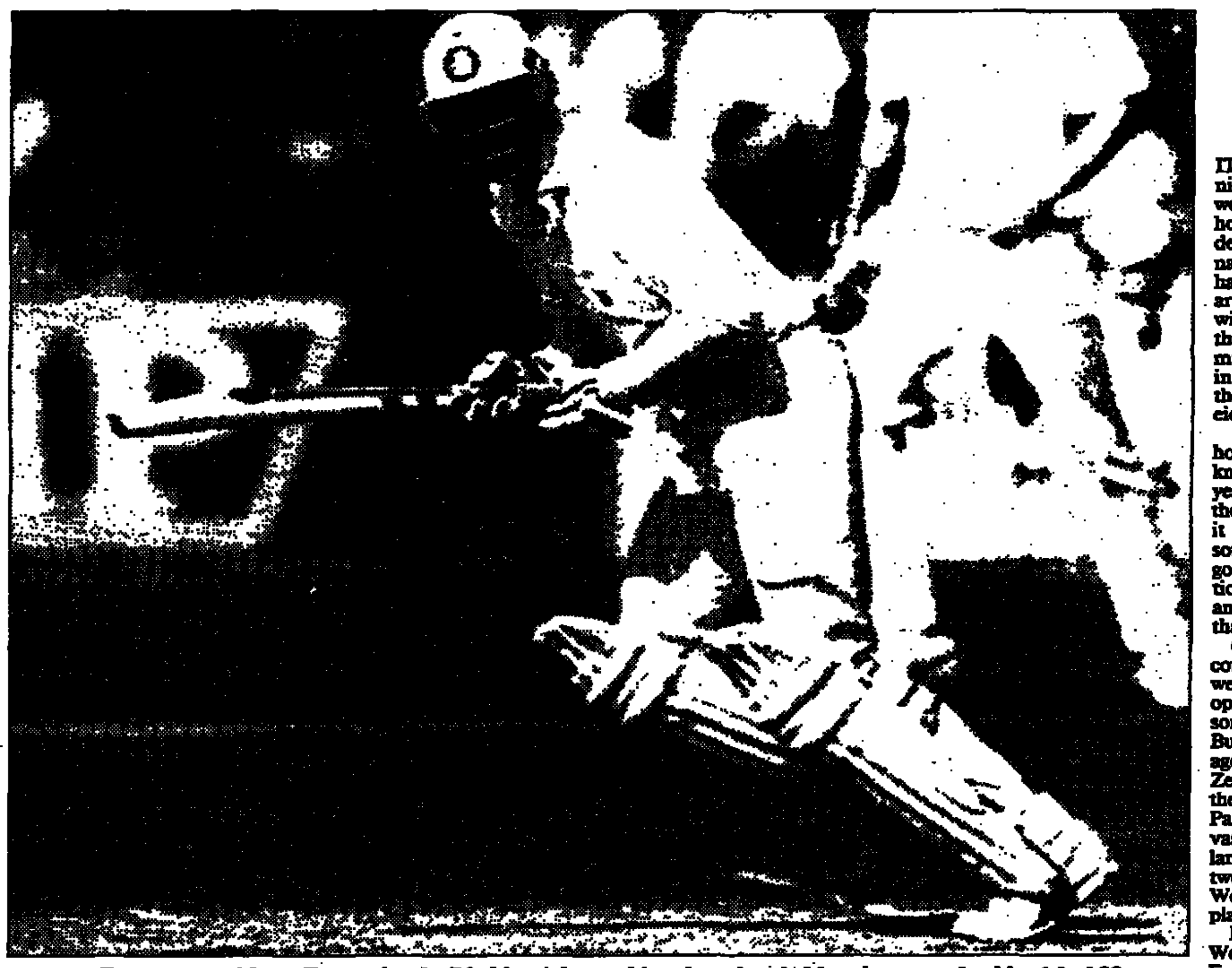
BOWLING: Gilbert 8-0-22-0; Campbell 7-2-16-0; McPhee 9-0-44-0; Tucker 7-1-17-1; Young 8-0-41-0; Robertson 8-2-21-1; Boon 1-0-8-0.

Umpires: S Randell and B Knight.

Atherton, whose responsibilities at the head of the England batting order have greatly increased since the injury to Gooch, once more looked the correct, commanding player of last summer as he passed 50 for the first time on tour and went on to an unbeaten and unblemished 88 in a little under three hours.

Other areas of England's game still looked in need of repair, however, and Simpson might easily have been more concerned by news of the first injury to confront his own side.

Taylor, who scored 839 runs during the series in England last year and whose Test average of 64.72 is almost indecently good, damaged his left-hand little finger on Tuesday night while playing in less exalted circles, for his hometown club, Wagga. It was initially thought that the finger was broken but Taylor was yesterday reassured that it was no worse than a crack.



An Englishman with the Tasmanian devil in him: Atherton hits a boundary in his unbeaten and unblemished 88

England's injury bulletin involves Gooch, still on a drip and now thought likely to stay in hospital in Adelaide until the weekend before flying on to Brisbane for the Test, and Malcolm, who has a sore toe. He was, it is true, hit a nasty blow on it by the only ball he faced while batting on Monday but the tour management is treating it as nothing serious and expects its fastest bowler not only to play tomorrow but also to bowl with more obvious enthusiasm than in recent games.

For Malcolm's sake, one must hope that he does not encounter a pitch quite as turgid as yesterday's. The ball hardly rose above stump height, Bicknell achieving a minor miracle by hitting Farrell in the groin early on, and it was too slow in pace to please either the fast bowlers or the stroke-playing batsmen.

Wellham, once of Australia and New South Wales but now the studious-looking leader of the Tasmans, plainly found it hard to hit the ball off the square and, in the latter stages of his tortuous 63 from 44 overs, received some strident advice from the crowd. He was finally run out.

It was only because Hemmings found his usual containing role curiously beyond his powers that Tasmania scraped together as many as 173 in their 50 overs, a target which held no terrors even for a side with no form.

Larkins was worryingly loose again and fell in the same fashion for the third time in a week: bowled through a vague defensive push lacking positive footwork. Gower was briefly in touch before the impressive young off-spinner, Robertson, lured him to his end. Lamb still looks in good form and the contest, such as it had been, ended with four overs to spare.

A pitch as useful to fast bowlers as an eiderdown

From JOHN WOODCOCK IN KARACHI

IT WOULD be surprising if, last night, the West Indian cricketers were not feeling a long way from home. After their conclusive defeat in the one-day internationals against Pakistan, they had been presented, when they arrived at the National Stadium, with a pitch so brown and bare that it seems likely to be of as much use to their fast bowlers, in the first Test match starting there this morning, as an eiderdown.

Only fools, I know, predict how pitches will play. "I have known it, man and boy, for 40 years," Walter Robins said of the Lord's pitch, "and I still get it wrong as often as not." But something will need to have gone very wrong in the production of this one if it is not slow and receptive, sooner rather than later, to spin.

Once upon a time it was considered rather poor form to weigh up the strength of the opposition and then prepare something aimed at nullifying it. But not any more. Five weeks ago, when Pakistan played New Zealand on the same ground, the pitch was grassy enough for Pakistan's faster bowlers, being vastly superior to New Zealand's, to take 18 wickets between them. Today, against West Indies, Pakistan will be playing two leg spinners.

In Antigua in April, when West Indies needed to beat England to win the series, they assembled a trampoline. Although it is West Indies' intention to play four fast bowlers today, that is partly, no doubt, to keep the over rate down. To a large extent, too, it is Hobson's choice. An itinerary of three one-day internationals and nothing else has allowed Haynes, their leg spinner and the only slow bowler of any merit, no bowling to speak of.

Next, the umpires for today. The West Indians are not best pleased about them, either. At one end will be Khizar Hayat, standing in his 24th Test match, which is more than any other Pakistani has. At the other will be one Riazuddin, whose only previous appearance at anything like this level was in the last of the one-day internationals, in Multan on Tuesday.

In the light of what Ian Taylor, New Zealand's manager on their recent tour here, has had to say about one side of the ball being deliberately roughed up by the faster bowlers of both teams, in order to make it swing, there is inevitably the familiar whiff of suspicion in the air.

But do not let us forget what mutterings there were in England in 1972 when the Australian, Bob Massie, playing in his first Test match, twice skittled England at Lord's, or again at Delhi in 1976 when John Lever, also on his Test debut, took ten wickets for a mere 70 runs. Each time, to the astonishment of all, the ball swung like a boomerang.

Pakistan's series against New Zealand last month would, in fact, have been umpired by "neutrals" (one Indian and one Sri Lankan) had Martin Crowe, the New Zealand captain, not said, when he heard the news, that anyone would be better than two Pakistanis. Hardly surprisingly, Pakistan took offence at that and insisted, forthwith, on two of their own.

Today's series was always to have been umpired by Pakistanis, though it may be the last that is in Pakistan. The International Cricket Council is expected to bring in an international panel before April. Colin Cowdrey, chairman of ICC, is due here on Saturday, on his way home from India, to watch a couple of days' play.

WEST INDIES (from): D L Haynes (captain), C G Greenidge, R B Richardson, C A Best, A L Logie, B C Lara, P J L Dujon, M D Marshall, D Williams, R C Haynes, C E L Ambrose, I R Bishop, C A Walsh, C L Hooper, E A Moseley.

PAKISTAN (from): Imran Khan (captain), Shoaib Mohammad, Ramiz Raja, Javed Miandad, Zahid Fazal, Salim Malik, Saleem Yousuf, Abdul Qadir, Wasim Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Akram Raza, Aaqib Javed, Ijaz Ahmed, Basit Ali, Ghulam Ali, Moin Khan.

Umpires: Khizar Hayat and Riazuddin.

CYCLING

Drugs suppliers jailed but riders discharged

PARIS (AFP) — A doctor and two other Frenchmen who supplied drugs to professional cyclists were jailed here yesterday while the court fined two cyclists who took the drugs and discharged nine others.

Dr Jacques Toledano, who obtained the drug Tonedron from a chemist, was jailed for two years with a further one-year suspended sentence and fined the equivalent of £10,000. Patrick Charron, who gave riders the drugs for the November 1986 Bercy Open race, was jailed for two years and fined the same amount.

Joel Lacroix, an intermediary between the two men, was sent to prison for one year with another year suspended. He was also fined £2,000. All three, charged after police used telephone taps to obtain evidence, were ordered to pay symbolic damages of one franc each to the French Cycling Federation.

Three cyclists who failed to turn up in court were found guilty of taking the drug. German Dietrich Thurau was ordered to pay £1,000 and Franck Clement £500.

Nine other cyclists attended court and were discharged. The prosecution had called for six months in prison for Régis Clere, Pierre Le Govic, Christian Corre, Pierre Mentheou, *Didier Garcia*, *Jean-Francois* Chaurin, Patrick Clerc, Jean-René Bernaudeau (all French) and a Belgian, Constant Tourné.

Matches played 10th November 1990

LITTLEWOODS POOLS, LIVERPOOL

ANOTHER STRIKING OVER PAYOUT THIS WEEK £3·3 Million

TREBLE CHANCE PAYING 6 DIVIDENDS

24 PTS	£5,504.45	4 DRAWS	£3.15
23 PTS	£115.35	10 HOMES	£6.35
22½ PTS	£60.00	5 AWAYS	£2,410.45
22 PTS	£8.50	(4 AWAYS ONLY ON LIST)	
21½ PTS	£9.90	Above dividends to units of 10p	
21 PTS	£1.75	Expenses and Commission 27th October 1990 – 29.0%	

Treble Chance dividends to units of 1p. All dividends subject to rescrutiny.

AUTUMN DOUBLE POOL

	1st	2nd	3rd
RESULT :- NOVEMBER HANDICAP NO'S	2	1	16
MACKESON GOLD CUP NO'S	46	50	47

No client with the first three horses in the correct 1,2,3 finishing order in both races. No client with the first three horses in any order in both races. One dividend (prize) only.

10 points.........£1,494.00

The above dividends (prizes) are inclusive of winning stake and are declared to units of 25p.

YACHTING

Qualification is relaxed by San Diego

By BARRY PICKTHALL

THE San Diego Yacht Club, the holder of the America's Cup, has withdrawn its hard-line residency rules drawn up to prevent foreign nationals, principally the American skipper, Paul Cayard, and Chris Dickson, of New Zealand, from competing for the Cup under Italian and Japanese flags.

The Californian club had sought to ban foreign "mercenaries" brought in to strengthen national teams who had not spent two years in the country they wished to represent, but agreed on Monday that this period can include time spent with their syndicates training in America.

The defender and challengers also agreed on the formation of an international jury, a training programme for on-the-water judges and a two-day tuning-up programme prior to next year's world championship in May.

The only problem concerns the request from the challengers to have the same rights as the defender to substitute the finalist with another boat between the Louis Vuitton challenge trials and the start of the America's Cup. "We agreed to disagree on this condition," Tom Ehman, the general manager of the America's Cup organising committee, said yesterday.

It has also been decided that the America's Cup regatta should adopt the drug-testing procedures approved last week by the International Yacht Racing Union.

SNOOKER

Higgins receives wild card for world masters

By STEVE ACTESON

ALEX Higgins, banned from tournaments for a year last June, has been given a wild-card invitation to play in the £1 million Sky World Masters in Birmingham in January. He was banned following his death threat against fellow professional Dennis Taylor and his punching of a tournament official after his world championship first-round defeat.

The invitation comes from the tournament promoter, Barry Hearn, a WPBSA board member of the association, but who has a free hand in this instance because the Masters does not come under *WPBSA* jurisdiction.

Higgins was elated by the news, while Hearn said: "He has given me his personal guarantee that his behaviour will be impeccable."

The association, however, yesterday said it "deplored" the decision, but as it had no control over the event it added: "Individual members must make up their own minds whether or not to play." One who was invited but will not play is John Spencer, three times the world champion.

BOWLS

Dropped shots decide

MAL Hughes, the United Kingdom team manager, yesterday claimed a moral victory over New Zealand, even though the first test at Wanganui went to the host country on shots difference (David Rhys Jones writes).

Taking a 16-10 lead into the last session, which featured women's singles and men's fours, the United Kingdom women, troubled by the blustery conditions, lost three of their four singles ties.

Mary Price's vital 25-21 win over Marie Watson, however, meant that the visitors were still into the lead, 18-16, with only the men's fours to be completed.

In a dramatic finish, Hugh Duff, Gary Smith, John Bell and Jim Baker were level with New Zealand after 20 ends, but dropped two shots on the 21st — and with the match points level at 18-18, it was those two shots that gave the team victory to New Zealand.

SCORES (New Zealand names first): Men's singles: M Symes 12, H H Duff 21; B Baldwin 20, J G Baker, 21; P J Delliss 17, J A Smith 21; B Ballinger 21, J N Bell 16. Men's pairs: Ballinger and Symes 16, Smith and Baker 27; Baldwin and Ellis 22, Duff and Bell 15. Men's fours: New Zealand 25, Britain 23. Women's singles: J Howat 25, S Gourlay 19; A Lambert 25, M Johnston 20; M Khan 25, J Ackland 18; M Watson 21, M Price 25. Women's pairs: Watson and Howatt 18; Ackland and Johnston 23; Khan and Lambet 22, Gourlay and Price 19. Women's fours: New Zealand 9, Britain 21. Mixed pairs: Watson and Symes 19, Gourlay and Bell 20; Ballinger and Howat 12, Duff and Price 22; Khan and Ellis 33, Ackland and Baker 11; Baldwin and Lambert 20, Smith and Johnston 18.

HOCKEY

A short, sharp lesson from game's masters

By DAVID CHAPPELL

Cambridge Univ	2
Hockey Assoc XI	4

THE sight of Sean Kerly back in an England shirt and the concession of a goal within 30 seconds was just the start of a chastening experience for Cambridge University yesterday. For almost an hour at Coldhams Common the students endured an illuminating lecture in the art of short, sharp passing from a Hockey Association side.

At least the goal gave the University a chance to touch the ball, which is more than their defenders seemed to be able to do whenever Davis was involved. Davis demonstrated his precocious talent time and again and Cogdell was the beneficiary after 20 minutes when Davis *weaved through on the right*.

Two short corner goals from de Groot, the second a minute after half time, gave the impression that at 4-0 Cambridge *might have to absorb a good* deal more.

But goals from Lloyd and Varnish after switched short corner moves was reward for persistence.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: *T Castledine (Coventry School and Queens', capt), P Rimmer (Watford GS and St John's)(sub: D Clark (St George's, Weybridge and Hughes Hall), *D Grady (King Edward VI, Five Ways, Birmingham and Fitzwilliam), P Nienow (King Edward's, Birmingham and St Johns), *P Doel (Perse School and Trinity Hall), J MacCormick (Auckland GS and Corpus Christi), N Barker (Kent College and Robinson), *P Varnish (Coventry School and Churchill), I Hammond (Saffron Walden and Hughes Hall), G Brown (Sale GS and Pembroke) (sub: *R Lloyd (Hitchin HS and St John's), S Ogle (Manchester GS and Clare).

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION XI: P Over (Cambridge City), R Davis (St Albans), J de Groot (St Albans), R Mitchell (Cambridge City), M Mitcham (Cambridge City), P Moulton (Southgate), S Graves (Cambridge City), S Kerly (Southgate), M Emmerson (St Albans), D Cogdell (St Albans), S Edgar (Cambridge City).

Umpires: R Allum (East) and M Brook (East).

*A blue

Hounslow in same group as champions

HOUNSLOW, the winners of the inaugural European Cup Winners' Cup last year, are grouped with Uhlenhorst, of Germany, the titleholders, when they compete in the European club championship next year (a Special Correspondent writes).

EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Men: Division A (Wassenaar, Neth): Pool A: Uhlenhorst (Ger), Royal Rasante (Bel), Hounslow, Kothener Sportverein (Ger). Pool B: Atletico Terrassa (Sp), HGC (Neth), Dynamo Alma Ata), Pomorzanin (Pol). Division B (Glasgow): Pool A: Lisnagarvey (Ire), Subotica (Yug), Tenste (Swe). Pool B: Gaddes Kelburne (Scot), Wein Cobra (Austria), Ramaldense (Por), Copenhagen. (Olten, Switzerland): Pool A: French champions (to be named), Olten, Whitchurch (Wales), Epitok (Hun). Pool B: Amsicora (It), Gramarians (Gib), Slavia Prague, Hameenlinna (Fin). To be played May 17-20. Women: Division A (Wassenaar): Pool A: Amsterdam, HGC (Neth), Portadown, Royal Rasante. Pool B: Glasgow Western, Kolos Borispol (USSR), Club de Campo (Sp), French champions to be named. Division B (Leverkusen): Pool A: Slough, Catania (It), Meteor Ceske Budejovice (Cz), qualifier from Sweden or Finland. Pool B: Bayer Leverkusen, Akademischer (Austria), Young Boys of Berne, Swansea.

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP (Terrassa): Pool A: Havant (Eng), Egara (Sp), Avoca (Ire), Roma (It). Pool B: Kampong (Neth), Rot-Weiss Cologne (Ger), Torbrex Wanderers (Scot), French champions (to be named). Tournament to be played on March 29 to April 1.

SWIMMING

Moorhouse withdraws with virus

ADRIAN Moorhouse has withdrawn from the TSB national championships being held at Coventry from today until Sunday (Craig Lord writes). He is suffering from a virus.

The world record holder and Olympic champion at 100 metres breaststroke was expected to race his Leeds colleague, James Parrack and Nick Gillingham, of Birmingham, in his specialist event today.

However, with Moorhouse already pre-selected for the world championships, to be held at Perth, Australia, in January, his participation at Coventry was to be a formality.

The Yorkshireman's absence leaves the 100 metres as a two-man race. Gillingham, the European champion at 200 metres, has been pre-selected for Perth for the distance, but Parrack still has to claim his place in the team, despite being ranked third in the world this year.

Sharron Davies, of Bracknell, will also miss the first two days of the championship, due to work commitments. However, she will be trying to book her ticket to Perth in the 200 metres individual medley on Saturday.

هكذا من الأصل

Black Humour for swift compensation

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

BLACK Humour, whose fall at Market Rasen on Friday resulted in Peter Scudamore breaking a leg, makes a quick return to active duty today when contesting the Powerplay Promotions Handicap Hurdle under top weight at Towcester.

The Charlie Brooks-trained six-year-old will be ridden by Ben de Haan, who has himself just returned to action after recovering from injuries sustained while schooling.

Having napped Black Humour at Market Rasen, I feel bound to give him the benefit of the doubt now, especially as he is reported to be in fine shape and none the worse for the incident.

It was too early to say whether he would have won last Friday because his fall occurred at the fifth flight. However, he did appear to be going well within himself at the time in fourth place.

Of greater significance was the fact that he was made favourite at 5-4 on to bring to an end the impressive sequence already run up by Nineofus. As it turned out, it was his own unbeaten record that fell by the wayside.

Last season, Black Humour, who is a half-brother to the former champion hurdler, Gaye Brief, looked a natural jumper when winning his only races at Hereford and Uttoxeter. He was particularly impressive on the latter track before an attack of sore shins curtailed his season.

As all those below No Bonus will be carrying more weight than their real rating in the extended handicap, the obvious danger to Black Humour is Stupid Cupid, who has been reassessed since beating Iveagh House (a winner twice since) on her seasonal debut.

Royal Cracker, who ran a cracking race to finish second to Another Coral at Cheltenham last Friday, is taken to go one better in the Olney Handicap Chase.

At Ayr, it will be interesting to see how that good chaser, **Jim Thorpe**, fares when he makes his comeback in the Mellerays Belle Challenge Cup. As he has won first time out for the last two seasons, fitness is unlikely to be a problem.

He missed the whole of last term because his trainer, Gordon Richards, was simply not happy with him. Jim Thorpe is reported to be fine again now, though, and it is worth remembering that he was good enough to win the Future Champions Novices' Chase.

Aston Express, another decent chaser on his day, is also taken to make a good start to the season by winning the John Brown Memorial Trophy.

The best bet on the Scottish track, however, could easily be the course and distance winner, **Bluehaven Flyer**, who will be well ridden by Susan Murgatroyd in the Caprington Amateur Riders' Handicap Hurdle.

At Taunton, **Mandraki Shuffle** has a clear chance in the Catering Management Services Champagne Novices' Chase, while **Stairway To Heaven** (1.40) makes most appeal on the all-weather surface at Lingfield.

McCourt on Celtic Shot

GRAHAM McCourt will replace the injured Peter Scudamore on Celtic Shot in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday week (Christopher Goulding writes).

"There should be no problems with Graham taking the ride as he knows the horse very well." Charlie Brooks, his trainer, said. "He rode him to win his final race at Ayr last season."

Brooks, who is delighted with the 1988 champion hurdler after his successful return at Wetherby 12 days ago, added: "I believe the horse has a good racing weight, but I will not run him if the ground is firm."

Likely implications for racing if Tory leadership changes

By RICHARD EVANS

A SUCCESSFUL challenge to Mrs Thatcher's leadership of the Conservative party could have two important repercussions for racing — including the future management of the Horserace Totalisator Board.

The chairmanship of the Tote, held by Lord Wyatt of Weeford, aged 72, since 1976, comes up for renewal in April. If Mrs Thatcher remains in Downing Street it is virtually certain that Lord Wyatt, a close friend of the Prime Minister, will be reappointed for a further term of office — probably two or three years.

If Michael Heseltine or another Tory wins the leadership battle, however, Lord Wyatt's chances of staying on will be reduced severely.

The Tote chairmanship is a Downing Street-approved appointment and it is known that Home Office officials, not for the first time, favour a change from Lord Wyatt.

With Mrs Thatcher no longer on hand to overrule such advice, a new, younger chairman would almost certainly be appointed, although there is speculation in Whitehall that Lord Wyatt has already signed a "deal" guaranteeing him the job for two years.

A change in the Tote chairmanship would undoubtedly be welcomed by large sections of the racing industry, including the upper echelons of the Jockey Club. Despite Lord Wyatt's regularly repeated assertions concerning his record as chairman, many leading racing

Lord Wyatt: close friend of the Prime Minister

figures believe the Tote is a sleeping giant which is not fulfilling its potential.

The defeat of Mrs Thatcher would also offer hope to the bloodstock industry which is severely worried about the repercussions of changes to Value Added Tax brought about by the advent of the Single European Market in 1993.

A 15 per cent VAT rate on bloodstock transactions in Britain compared to 2.3 per cent in Ireland could destroy the home industry as the main yearling sales would be transferred from Newmarket to across the Irish Sea.

Mrs Thatcher's insistence that there should be just two rates of VAT, 0 and 15 per cent, rather than various bands as favoured by the rest of Europe, has proved part of the difficulty facing breeders, auctioneers and bloodstock agents.

Late decision on Ascot favourite

JOHN Edwards will not decide until tomorrow morning whether to run his Mackeson Gold Cup winner, Multum In Parvo, in the H & T Walker Gold Cup at Ascot on Saturday (Paul Wheeler writes).

Venetia Williams, assistant to the Ross-on-Wye trainer, said at Kempton Park yesterday: "Multum In Parvo would have to carry a 4lb penalty at Ascot but in future handicaps he has gone up 10lb. In view of that it is tempting to run."

Corals make Multum In Parvo their 7-2 favourite (with a run) while Blazing Walker was heavily backed yesterday from 7-1 to 5-1.

The Edwards stable maintained its fine form when Mountebor repelled the late challenge of Height Of Fun by a short head in the BMW Series Chase Qualifier.

Jamie Osborne, second on Height Of Fun and earlier on The Jogger, went one better in the main race of the day, the Boxing Day Trial Chase, on Assaglawi for Henrietta Knight.

Osborne completed his double on Cornwall Prince for Neville Callaghan in the Junior Novices' Hurdle, replacing Declan Murphy.

Alydar breaks leg

Alydar, the leading sire in the United States, was fighting for his life last night after being found with a broken leg in his box at Calumet Farm in Lexington, Kentucky.

TOWCESTER

Selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Andrelot. 1.30 Bit Of A Clown. 2.0 Royal Cracker. 2.30 BLACK HUMOUR (nap). 3.0 Bizage Motors. 3.30 Bounden Duty.

By Michael Seely

2.30 BLACK HUMOUR (nap). 3.30 Bounden Duty.

Going: good SIS

1.0 FILGRAVE NOVICES HURDLE (£1,800: 2m) (18 runners)

1 ANDRELOT 73F Mrs J Pitman 10-10 ..... M Bowlby
2 02 ARABIAN SILENCE 18 (B) D Gandolfo 10-10 ..... R Dunwoody
3 23 COSMIC DANCER 16 (B) A Hide 10-10 ..... S Wanda
4 54 DAWN DECISION 14 J Crampton 10-10 ..... T Leach (7)
5 DODGER DICKINS 37F R Hollinshead 10-10 ..... Gary Lyons (3)
6 0 DORRIAR 39 K Wingrove 10-10 ..... P Dever
7 44 GREAT MILL 30 K Bailey 10-10 ..... I Lawrence (3)
8 043 HUGLI 15 S Sherwood 10-10 ..... J Railton
9 54 NORTHERN VILLAGE 15 S Dow 10-10 ..... N Davies
10 0 PHOENIX JULE 33 B Crawford 10-10 ..... J McLaughlin
11 3 PROST 37F (BF) I Campbell 10-10 ..... R Campbell
12 RAINBOW STRIPES 23F P Blockley 10-10 ..... S Knightley
13 6 SAHAWI 14 N Twiston-Davies 10-10 ..... C Llewellyn
14 0 STANWAY 20 T Casey 10-10 ..... M Lynch
15 3 FENAMICA 24 M Ryan 10-5 ..... J Ryan (5)
16 JACKIE LYNCH D Bell 10-5 ..... M Bowlby
17 0 RAMSEY STREET 33 K Bridgwater 10-5 ..... D Bridgwater (7)
18 WALKERN WITCH 23F D Thom 10-5 ..... —

5-2 Arabian Silence, 4-1 Andrelot, 6-1 Hugli, 8-1 Fenamica, 10-1 Prost, Northern Village, 12-1 others.

1.30 DAVENTRY NOVICES CHASE (£2,374: 3m 190yd) (16)

1 3-14 LENINGRAD 21 (F) P Hedford 6-11-12 ..... I Bloomark (3)
2 0-01 TUBBS 9 (C) Mrs S Armytage 8-11-12 ..... M Bowlby
3 F-F6 A LAD INSANE 8 (F) K Bailey 9-11-5 ..... I Lawrence (3)
4 35-4 ANOTHER STRIPLIGHT 15 P Blockley 7-11-5 ..... S Knightley
5 BFP- ATTRACTIVE 201 M Robinson 6-11-5 ..... J Duggan
6 F-60 AUGHWILLIAM 7 (B) D Gandolfo 10-11-5 ..... R Dunwoody
7 6F00 BALLYWEST 34 (F) K Wingrove 12-11-5 ..... J Ladder (3)
8 /43- BATTLE'S TOWN BOY 39F Mrs V Ward 8-11-5 ..... D Gallagher
9 234- BIT OF A CLOWN 251 Mrs I McKie 7-11-5 ..... L Harvey
10 P5-4 BRAMBEYS COPSE 28 Miss J Horwood 11-11-5 ..... W Humphreys
11 2PP- BRONZE EFFIGY 236 (D,S) M Henriques 8-11-5 ..... B Dowling
12 4 FIGHTING JESSICA 30 (BF) J Upson 5-11-5 ..... G Charles-Jones
13 P0-P GATTERSTOWN 14 M Oliver 7-11-5 ..... J Railton
14 MONJIL C Bravery 8-11-5 ..... T Quinlan
15 040- PRAIRIE STORM 213 T Etherington 6-11-5 ..... E Murphy
16 4-30 RONNIE WILL 20 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-5 ..... C Llewellyn

5-2 Bit Of A Clown, 7-2 Bronze Effigy, 6-1 A Lad Insane, 10-1 Tubbs, Fighting Jessica, 12-1 others.

2.0 OLNEY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,325: 2m 50yd) (4)

1 -212 ROYAL CRACKER 5 (V,D,F,G,S) T Bill 8-12-0 ..... J Railton
2 05-4 HOPE END 9 (D,F,G,S) R Dickin 12-10-8 ..... M Jones (5)
3 01-5 MAJOR EFFORT 47 (BF,F) G Balding 5-10-4 ..... J Frost
4 05-4 XYLOPHONE 18 (F) Miss L Bower 8-10-0 ..... —

6-11 Royal Cracker, 2-1 Major Effort, 5-1 Hope End, 10-1 Xylophone.

2.30 POWERPLAY PROMOTIONS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,127: 2m) (10)

1 11-F BLACK HUMOUR 6 (BF,D,G,S) C Brooks 6-11-12 ..... B de Haan
2 P5-1 STUPID CUPID 30 (D,F,G) J Gifford 6-10-12 ..... —
3 13-0 NO BONUS 12 (D,F) D Murray-Smith 6-10-8 ..... P Verling (3)
4 3134 TEMPORALE 12 (CD,F) K Burke 4-10-0 ..... —
5 F-31 CAMDEN BELLE 9 (CD,F,G) M Muggeridge 8-10-0 (4ex) ..... R Guest
6 -405 TRIBAL MASCOT 6 (B,F) D Gandolfo 5-10-0 ..... R Dunwoody
7 66-4 I WONDER WHEN 20 (D,G,S) T McGovern 9-10-0 ..... S McKeever (5)
8 PP-P NEARCTIC BAY 13 (D,S) T Bill 4-10-0 ..... J Railton
9 24/ NAUTICAL BELLE 549 (D,G) J Ringer 8-10-0 ..... B Metcalf
10 P0P- GENTINO 335 J Harris 7-10-0 ..... J A Harris

9-4 Black Humour, 7-2 Camden Belle, 9-2 Stupid Cupid, 6-1 Temporale, 10-1 Tribal Mascot, No Bonus, 12-1 others.

3.0 ANGLIA NEWS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,490: 2m 5f 110yd) (5)

1 P-U3 HEADIN' ON 8 (C,F) K Bridgwater 10-11-10 ..... T Wall
2 F31- BIZAGE MOTORS 181 (B,F) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-8 ..... M Pitman
3 P-05 BOLAR CLOUD 46 (CD,F,G,S) M Charles 8-10-8 ..... Colin McKowna
4 051- WARNER'S END 310 (B,G,S) J Webber 9-10-6 ..... M Lynch
5 32-3 CELTIC CRACKLE 9 (C,F) P Cundell 10-10-0 ..... R Strange

7-4 Bizage Motors, 5-2 Headin' On, 4-1 Warner's End, 6-1 Bolar Cloud, 8-1 Celtic Crackle.

3.30 TOWCESTER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,884: 2m) (16)

1 0 FALSE ARREST 37 M Henriques 8-12-0 ..... B Dowling
2 HAWKSVILLE 121BF P Pritchard 7-12-0 ..... —
3 5U-1 BOUNDEN DUTY 36 (CD,F) G Harwood 4-11-11 ..... M Perrett
4 4212 DRIVING FORCE 12 (F) M McCourt 4-11-3 ..... L Harvey
5 P/3 COUNT TREVISIO 20 M Brown 6-10-5 ..... M Jones (5)
6 P-54 WELSH COMMANDER 12 (G) G Gracey 7-10-4 ..... R Guest
7 0-50 NESSFIELD 8 K Morgan 4-10-3 ..... H Davies
8 -330 CAPTAIN KRAYYAN 27 (BF) T McGovern 4-10-0 ..... —
9 00P- TEE CU 250 (F) J King 5-10-0 ..... C Llewellyn
10 400- HIGH CHATEAU 288 J Spearing 6-10-0 ..... M Bowlby
11 3PP- SPINNEY LIGHT 237 W Mann 7-10-0 ..... T Wall
12 44-0 FINE TUDOR 18 Mrs E Heath 4-10-0 ..... D Gallagher
13 0F0- NATIVE ROMANCE 213 J Joseph 5-10-0 ..... D Skyrme (3)
14 4030 RAIN-N-SUN 9 J Harris 4-10-0 ..... J A Harris
15 -030 SWISS PRINCESS 9 T Donnelly 5-10-0 ..... A S Smith (7)
16 530- MISTRESS ROSS 330 G Thorner 7-10-0 ..... I Lawrence (3)

9-4 Bounden Duty, 3-1 Driving Force, 6-1 Count Trevisio, Welsh Commander, 10-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: T McGovern, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%; J Joseph, 4 from 11, 36.4%; C Brooks, 3 from 13, 23.1%; P Cundell, 5 from 27, 18.5%; Mrs J Pitman, 10 from 61, 16.4%; J King, 7 from 46, 15.2%.
JOCKEYS: A S Smith, 4 winners from 6 rides, 66.7%; E Murphy, 7 from 35, 20.0%; M Pitman, 6 from 31, 19.4%; M Perrett, 5 from 30, 16.7%; B de Haan, 10 from 61, 16.4%; D Skyrme, 3 from 19, 15.8%.

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Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Kaleidos.
1.15 Aston Express.
1.45 Jim Thorpe.
2.15 Noble Raider.
2.45 Be My Prospect.
3.15 Bluehaven Flyer.

Michael Seely's selection: 12.45 Kaleidos.

Going: good to soft

12.45 CULROY JUVENILE HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,892: 2m) (14 runners)

1 1 KALEIDOS 28 (D,F) (J Henderson (Gateshead)) N Tinkler 11-1 ..... G McCourt —
2 1 SUREFOOT SILLARS 9 (D,G) (Sillars Civil Engineering) Mrs J Ramsden 11-1 ..... D Byrne —
3 P AILEEN'S JOY 21 (Mrs E Fisher) R Fisher 10-9 ..... R Hodge (7) —
4 EASTERN WHISPER 16F (K Higson) Denys Smith 10-9 ..... C Grant —
5 HEY JOE (D Pearson) G Oldroyd 10-9 ..... R Garritty —
6 MR OPTIMISTIC 16F (Jonjo Thoroughbred Racing Plc) J J O'Neill 10-9 ..... —
7 PERSIAN HOUSE 16F (T Mowbray) J Jefferson 10-9 ..... M Dwyer —
8 0 RAGE 12 (P Hurst) M H Easterby 10-9 ..... L Wyer —
9 WESTERN SECRET 28F (Western Meeting Club Owners Group) J S Wilson 10-9 ..... R Morley —
10 GOLDEN DELLA 90F (Haydock Exhibitions Ltd) J S Wilson 10-4 ..... P Niven —
11 HIGHLAND RIVER (Miss K Clark) C Parker 10-4 ..... S Storey —
12 PALMY 94F (R Bewley) S Leadbetter 10-4 ..... J O'Gorman (3) —
13 PEGGY FISH (E Madden) G Richards 10-4 ..... N Doughty —
14 PERSUASIVE 36F (W McHarg) J S Wilson 10-4 ..... D Poole (7) —

BETTING: 9-4 Kaleidos, 9-2 Suretoot Sillars, 8-1 Persian House, 10-1 Peggy Fish, 12-1 Eastern Whisper, Rage, 16-1 others.

1989: DALE PARK 10-7 G McCourt (9-2) N Tinkler 18 ran

FORM FOCUS KALEIDOS, the best of these on the flat, ridden out to beat Runway Romance 1½l at Kempton (2m, firm). SUREFOOT SILLARS easily beat Miss Adventure 1l in a Nottingham (2m, good). EASTERN WHISPER 5½l 3rd to Live Action on the flat at Newcastle (1m 1f 20yd, soft). PERSIAN HOUSE, fair handicapper on the level, staying on 1½l 2nd to Young Benz at Redcar (1m 5f 125yd, good). RAGE never nearer 7th to well regarded Nathos Mission at Wetherby (2m, good). PERSUASIVE showed fair form on the level including when a 2½l 2nd to Light Hand in a claimer here (1m 2f, soft). Selection: KALEIDOS

1.15 JOHN BROWN MEMORIAL TROPHY (Intermediate Handicap Chase: £4,074: 3m 110yd) (4 runners)

1 4212P0- ASTON EXPRESS 209 (C,G,S) (J Featherstone) G Moore 7-12-0 ..... M Dwyer 88
2 10321-2 SOONER STILL 14 (BF,F,S) (P Civil Eng Co Ltd) J Edwards 8-11-1 ..... N Williamson 83
3 42213-5 COUTURE COLOR 7 (S) (Couture Marketing Ltd) J Mackie 7-10-4 ..... S J O'Neill 88
4 P0014-U OCEANUS 13 (D,F,G) (R Mitchell) J Mackie 9-10-0 ..... C Grant 0 88

Long handicap: Oceanus 9-2.
BETTING: 11-8 Aston Express, 15-8 Sooner Still, 3-1 Couture Color, 9-1 Oceanus.

1989: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS ASTON EXPRESS lost touch from halfway when a distant 8th to Celtic Shot here (2m, good to soft) in April; earlier 8l 2nd to Carrick Hill Lad here (2m 4f, heavy) in January. Unproven over this trip. SOONER STILL 25l 2nd, beaten when mistake last, to Mister Ed at Stratford (3m 2f, good); earlier beat Beau Rose 15l at Uttoxeter (2m 2f, good to firm) in April. COUTURE COLOR 20½l 5th, weakened 2 out, to Holphlas at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good). OCEANUS beat Camionnage 8l at Wetherby (3m 100yds, good to firm) in May; latest unseated rider behind Samfen over same course and distance on reappearance. Selection: SOONER STILL.

1.45 MELLERAYS BELLE CHALLENGE CUP (Limited Handicap Chase: £6,080: 2m) (3 runners)

1 1/1423/ JIM THORPE 888 (CD,F,G,S) (MC Inns Limited) G Richards 9-11-10 ..... N Doughty —
2 45/41F-P KARENMORE 22 (CD,F,G,S) (Eastward Bloodstock Ltd) M H Easterby 12-10-7 ..... L Wyer 0 99
3 11PPF-2 DEEP FLASH 13 (D,F,S) (A Parker) J Edwards 7-10-7 ..... N Williamson 94

BETTING: 4-5 Deep Flash, 6-4 Jim Thorpe, 6-1 Karenmore.

1989: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS JIM THORPE off course since 12l 3rd to Midnight Court at Wetherby (2m 50yd, good) in December 1989; previously 12l 2nd to Desert Orchid at Sandown (2m 18yd, good). KARENMORE jumped badly when pulled up before 3 out behind Trigpoint Charlie at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to firm); previously injured when fell at Cheltenham (2m) last December but had earlier impressed with 4l defeat of Centre Attraction at Wetherby (2m 50yd, good). DEEP FLASH last term won at Windsor (2m 40yds) and Sandown (2m 18yd, good to firm); latest 6l 2nd to Obelisk at Bangor (2m 4f, good). Selection: DEEP FLASH

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
G Moore	24	101	23.8	G McCourt	14	51	27.5
N Tinkler	9	39	23.1	N Doughty	31	147	21.1
G Richards	63	276	22.7	D Byrne	7	35	20.0
M H Easterby	15	79	19.0	L Wyer	12	76	15.8
J Jefferson	11	59	18.6	M Dwyer	10	65	15.4
J Edwards	6	35	17.1	Mr J Bradburne	4	27	14.8

TAUNTON

Selections

By Mandarin

1.15 Cache Fleur.
1.45 Turnberry Dawn.
2.15 One For The Boys.
2.45 Mandraki Shuffle.
3.15 By Line.
3.45 Tudor D'Or.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.45 MANDRAKI SHUFFLE.

Going: good to firm SIS

1.15 NECKTIE NOVICES HURDLE (£1,716: 2m 3f) (12 runners)

1 0/50-255 ASHFIELD BOY 7 (Mrs J Coyne) Mrs J Retter 5-10-12 ..... B Powell 92
2 24-00 BEN 9 (I Abrahams) Mrs A Knight 4-10-12 ..... G Knight —
3 152- CACHE FLEUR 218 (S) (S Kilpatrick) M Pipe 4-10-12 ..... M Foster (7) —
4 066-5 COME ON TOBY 20 (M Willey) S Cole 4-10-12 ..... R Maxwell (7) —
5 06-0 DRAW POKER 15 (H Heyman) D Sherwood 5-10-12 ..... J Osborne 82
6 2/0P0-P FERENTINO 7 (B) (Mrs B Davis) R Holder 5-10-12 ..... — —
7 66-5 LOFTINESS 15 (A Ingleby-Mackenzie) N Henderson 4-10-12 ..... J White 85
8 50 OCTOBER WINDS 33 (R Hamilton) D Barons 4-10-12 ..... R Greene (7) —
9 1 PEAK ROYALE 27 (P) (Mrs J Peake) D Barons 4-10-12 ..... N Hawke —
10 035-44 THE SLATER 9 (Kavanagh Roofing Southern Limited) W Turner 5-10-12 ..... P Holley (3) 0 90
11 0/-0 PHYL'S LEGACY 7 (Miss A Broyd) R Holder 5-10-7 ..... — —
12 030 WREKIN PEARL 9 (Mrs J Fraser) Mrs J Fraser 6-10-7 ..... J Bryan —

BETTING: 9-4 Lofiness, 3-1 Cache Fleur, 9-2 Draw Poker, 11-2 The Slater, 7-1 Peak Royale, 10-1 Ashfield Boy, 16-1 others.

1989: OUR SURVIVOR 5-10-12 R Beggan (7-1) Miss H Knight 12 ran

1.45 NOVEMBER HANDICAP CHASE (£2,290: 3m) (6 runners)

1 51P-4P1 RARE BID 9 (D,F) (Mrs S Maltby) R Hodges 7-12-9 (7ex) ..... C Maude (5) 86
2 312113 TURNBERRY DAWN 15 (F,G) (Palladium Ltd) T Hallett 9-11-5 ..... A Webb 94
3 0/33332- A BOY NAMED SIOUX 183 (CD,F,G,S) (S Stevens) S Stevens 10-11-4 ..... R Beggan 0 98
4 504133 CANTORIAL 9 (F,G,S) (Mrs C Heyton) C Popham 9-10-10 ..... W Irvine 88
5 0F404-6 CHELSEA MAN 19 (B,S) (Ash Contracts Ltd) Mrs L Clay 9-10-5 ..... M Richards 75
6 2F342U GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS 7 (F) (B Scriven) B Scriven 12-10-4 ..... A Jones 92

BETTING: 7-4 Rare Bid, 5-2 Turnberry Dawn, 4-1 A Boy Named Sioux, 5-1 Cantorial, 12-1 Gustavus Adolphus, 16-1 Chelsea Man.

1989: HIGH HAM BLUES 7-10-9 S Earle (7-4 fav) D Barons 11 ran

2.15 HEADSCARF JUVENILE NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,744: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

1 11 ONE FOR THE BOYS 57F (D,F) (J Ruddy) F Durr 11-4 ..... S Smith Eccles —
2 1P00 PUSHY LOVER 9 (B,CD,F) (G Stokes) W Turner 11-0 ..... P Holley (3) —
3 CARN KENDJACK (R Warren) M Pipe 10-9 ..... D Richmond (7) —
4 LAND OF WONDER 112F (L Waring) L Waring 10-9 ..... D Matthews (7) —
5 MOTHERS SON 155F (M Lewis) R Simpson 10-9 ..... W Morris —
6 F RING OF THE SOUTH 9 (Miss C Houston) G Gracey 10-9 ..... B Powell —
7 SERIOUS BLUE 323F (Racing Thoroughbreds Plc) G Gracey 10-9 ..... M Cassidy (7) —
8 P SINGH HOLLIE 20 (A Chandler) S Harris 10-9 ..... R Goldstein —
9 F SOUL PERFORMER 13 (K Pinfield) Miss D Rodbourne 10-9 ..... T Pinfield —
10 DANCE OF A GUNNER 23F (M & N Plant Ltd) R Holder 10-4 ..... N Mann (3) —
11 4 DONNA MARTINI 20 (J Ruddy) M Muggeridge 10-4 ..... W Irvine —
12 4 ROYAL RESORT 9 (D Morris) R Hodges 10-4 ..... R Beggan —
13 0 SPIDER WOMAN 15 (D Bate) K Cunningham-Brown 10-4 ..... Miss E Elliot —
14 TAYLORS CASTLE 17F (T Fletcher) S Cole 10-4 ..... N Hawke —

BETTING: 2-1 Carn Kendjack, 5-2 One For The Boys, 5-1 Royal Resort, 6-1 Dance Of A Gunner, 10-1 Donna Martini, 12-1 Pushy Lover, 14-1 Mothers Son, 16-1 others.

1989: RECIDIVIST 10-4 G McCourt (13-2) R Hodges 13 ran

FORM FOCUS MISTER TUFTIE pushed out to beat Galway Gal 3l at Carlisle (2m 4f, firm); previously beat A Gentleman Two 7l at Haydock (2m 4f, firm). NOBLE RAIDER all out to beat Annicombe Run a head in maiden at Wetherby (2m 4f, good). DANNY CONNORS beat Excitable Lady 12l in National Hunt Flat race at Leopardstown (2m, heavy) in February 1989. GYMCRAK DAWN beaten when fell at last at Wetherby (2m, good); previously beat Sassy Bonne 8l at Bangor (1m 4f, good). JURANISTAN 5l 2nd to Saline at Bangor (2m 4f, good to soft). STRONG BREEZE 14l 4th to Carthagena Cottage at Southwell (2m, AW). THE PROGRAMMER 3l 2nd to Royal Invader at Sedgefield (2m 4f). Selection: MISTER TUFTIE (nap)

2.45 BENNAN NOVICES CHASE (£3,687: 2m 5f) (7 runners)

1 F BALLINROSTIG 6 (H Thompson) Denys Smith 7-11-6 ..... T Reed 0 90
2 430/P0 BE MY PROSPECT 13 (R Ross) J Mackie 8-11-6 ..... S J O'Neill 88
3 4250P/F- CRESTED 259 (S) (R Pitman) G Moore 6-11-6 ..... M Dwyer —
4 10422-R INTO THE RED 14 (B) (J Huckle) C Tristram 8-11-6 ..... S Earle —
5 30/051-6 ROY'S DREAM 8 (F) (C Bird) S Leadbetter 7-11-6 ..... Mr R Shiels —
6 0P-P SLOTAMATICS 8 (Slotamatics (Bolton) Ltd) G Richards 7-11-6 ..... N Doughty —
7 300- SHEEPHAVEN BAY 323 (Mrs S Catherwood) G Richards 5-11-6 ..... G McCourt —

BETTING: 9-4 Slotamatics, 3-1 Crested, 4-1 Sheephaven Bay, 8-1 Ballinrostig, 10-1 Roy's Dream, 12-1 Be My Prospect, 16-1 Into The Red.

1989: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS BALLINROSTIG fell 2 out at Hexham (3m, good) with SLOTAMATICS (same terms) well behind when pulled up 3 out. BE MY PROSPECT always behind when 19l 7th to Jinsy Jack at Bangor (2m, good). CRESTED best effort was ½l defeat of Ben Ledi in hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f 110yd, heavy) in 1989. INTO THE RED beat On The Hooch 1l in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, good to soft) in February; ran out at 8th at Stratford last time. ROY'S DREAM beat Stormasel Boy 10l in maiden hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm) in April; tailed off 6th behind Farmworth at Kelso (2m 6f, good) latest. SHEEPHAVEN BAY best effort on debut in National Hunt Flat race at Downpatrick (2m 1f 172yd, yielding) when 6l 3rd to Fun N Games. Selection: INTO THE RED

3.15 CAPRINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £1,935: 2m) (10 runners)

1 55-0430 CORNET 13 (V,G,S) (Duke of Sutherland) Denys Smith 4-12-0 ..... P Waggott (7) 91
2 015P10- GURTEEN BOY 62F (D,S) (J Lane) J J O'Neill 8-11-8 ..... S O'Sullivan (7) 0 99
3 23/13/ CARSWELL'S CHOICE 600 (D,F) (A MacDonald) R Fisher 7-11-5 ..... R Ford (7) —
4 01FP22- STAY AWAKE 36F (D,F,G,S) (A Donnelton) J J O'Neill 4-11-5 ..... M Armytage 97
5 3231-P2 BASIC FUN 20 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Group 1 Ltd) J Spearing 4-10-12. Miss T Spearing (7) 98
6 60/11 BLUEHAVEN FLYER 33 (CD,F,G) (A Betsy) A Betsy 5-10-6 ..... Miss S Murgatroyd 94
7 000/606- DAWN COYOTE 318 (D,S) (R Anderson) Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-5 ..... J Bradburne 86
8 0-32436 TINA'S BRIG 8 (G,S) (K Milligan) C Parker 9-10-0 ..... D Parker (7) 94
9 204050- PENDLEY GOLD 239 (V,CD,S) (Mrs H Greenfield) M Naughton 9-10-0 ..... Mrs A Farrell 90
10 0P/56P0- INDAMU 255 (D,S) (Vax Appliances Ltd) J Spearing 5-10-0 ..... K Johnson —

Long handicap: Pendley Gold 9-10, Indamu 9-8.
BETTING: 3-1 Bluehaven Flyer, 5-1 Stay Awake, 11-2 Basic Fun, 6-1 Cornet, Gurteen Boy, 8-1 Tina's Brig, 10-1 Indamu, 12-1 others.

1989: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS GURTEEN BOY beat Marcellina ½l at Carlisle (2m 1f 110yd, soft) with PENDLEY GOLD (3lb better off) 20l 10th. CARSWELL'S CHOICE held on to beat Highland Laird 2l at Bangor (2m, firm). STAY AWAKE head 2nd to Dancing River at Haydock (2m, firm) in May. BASIC FUN 4l 2nd to Mouradabia at Hereford (2m, good to soft); successful four times over this distance last term. BLUEHAVEN FLYER beat A Gentleman Two 15l at Carlisle (2m 1f 110yd); subsequently beat Camden Knight 8l here (2m, good). TINA'S BRIG 22l 5th to Sonny One Shine at Kelso (3m 1f, good). Selection: BASIC FUN

2.45 CATERING MANAGEMENT SERVICES CHAMPAGNE NOVICES CHASE (£2,320: 3m) (13 runners)

1 0PJ-324 BISHOPRIC 9 (W Turner) W G Turner 9-11-3 ..... S Turner 73
2 F/-UU3FP0 BONTEBOK 3 (J Cann) J Cann 8-11-3 ..... A Tory (3) 76
3 P30PP ITS IVAN 7 (N Szaremeta) G Doidge 7-11-3 ..... P Holley (3) —
4 032P-PP KINGSBRIDGE FLYER 33 (T Woodbridge) A Chamberlain 8-11-3 ..... Lorna Vincent —
5 03442-2 MAJESTIC BRUNO 46 (Mrs D Fletcher) N Gaselee 8-11-3 ..... E O'Donovan (7) 82
6 422245- MANDRAKI SHUFFLE 250 (S) (Mrs J Dibben) O Sherwood 8-11-3 ..... J Osborne 0 99
7 PPP33-P NOUGAT RUSSE 13 (D Langdon) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-3 ..... — 83
8 46/383-0 PROVERBIAL SESSION 21 (S) (W McKenzie-Coles) W McKenzie-Coles 9-11-3 ..... W Irvine 82
9 0606/- SAND MINSTREL 923 (A White) M Pipe 7-11-3 ..... Mr A Walter —
10 /110-22 SIMON DAMIAN 10 (B,BF,F,G) (F Smith) W Turner 7-11-3 ..... R Goldstein 81
11 3P222P3- TOFFEE APPLE 187 (S Pike) S Pike 7-11-3 ..... R Beggan 91
12 0/43-40 HASTY SALVO 61 (Business Forms Express) K Bishop 6-10-12 ..... R Greene (7) —
13 008020- KELLYANN 218 (S) (R Kelly) G Ham 7-10-12 ..... B Powell 93

BETTING: 6-4 Mandraki Shuffle, 7-2 Simon Damian, 4-1 Sand Minstrel, 8-1 Majestic Bruno, 10-1 Bishopric, 14-1 Toffee Apple, 16-1 others.

1989: WINK GULLIVER 5-11-6 R Arnott (5-2 fav) D Elsworth 12 ran

3.15 GAUNTLET MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,486: 2m 3f) (12 runners)

1 214/111- BY LINE 282 (CD,F) (Mrs S Smart) Mrs F Walwyn 6-11-10 ..... K Mooney 97
2 22-2013 DESERT PALM 16 (C,F,G) (C Wells) R Hodges 5-11-9 ..... A Tory (3) 99
3 /122/30- STAR OF KUWAIT 283 (F) (Mrs M Cox) N Thomson 6-11-2 ..... D Morris 89
4 4-22420 SOLSTICE BELL 28 (B,F) (J Wall) R Voorspuy 8-11-1 ..... M Kinane 97
5 312F-11 WARM WINTER 21 (F,G) (Kingsley Holidays Ltd) J Baker 4-11-0 ..... W Irvine 96
6 12P125 DEAR MIFF 27 (F) (C King) M Channon 5-10-13 ..... Lorna Vincent 95
7 321-12P TIME ON MY HANDS 25 (F) (L Hawkings) Mrs A Knight 4-10-11 ..... G Knight 96
8 34-4144 AVONMOUTHSECRETARY 30 (D,F) (J Tutton) R Holder 4-10-9 ..... N Mann (3) 93
9 10230-2 RECIDIVIST 13 (C,F) (C Hill) R Hodges 4-10-4 ..... C Maude (5) 0 99
10 345151 BORE HILL PRINCESS 12 (G) (O Stokes) W Turner 5-10-4 ..... P Holley (3) 96
11 22231-6 CURIOUS FEELING 10 (F) (M Smith) J Bosley 4-10-0 ..... W McFarland 98
12 0/4UPP- ROUSSE DE POMME 239 (Mrs J Chadwick) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0 ..... J Osborne —

Long handicap: Curious Feeling 9-11, Rousse De Pomme 8-13.
BETTING: 3-1 Warm Winter, 9-2 Recidivist, 5-1 By Line, 6-1 Dear Miff, 7-1 Desert Palm, 8-1 Avonmouthsecretary, 10-1 Bore Hill Princess, 12-1 Time On My Hands, 14-1 Star Of Kuwait, 16-1 others.

1989: FROME GIRL 5-9-9 N Mann (11-2 fav) R Holder 15 ran

3.45 AUTUMN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,772: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

1 55222-3 SPORTING IDOL 7 (Mrs D Holdsworth) C Popham 5-11-10 ..... S Donohoe (7) 98
2 05/086-2 ABU MUSLAB 10 (G) Edwards) G Edwards 6-11-8 ..... Mr G Edwards 90
3 5324-4 JOLESIAN 16 (B Seal) Mrs L Clay 4-11-5 ..... M Richards 95
4 65-1200 FINA

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Butcher given Sillett's role

By Dennis Shaw

TERRY Butcher will be named player-manager of Coventry City today to replace John Sillett, who was released from his contract six months early yesterday. Butcher flew to Birmingham for final talks with John Poynton, the Coventry City chairman, after a £500,000 transfer deal had been agreed with Rangers.

The appointment will be announced at a press conference today, following 24 hours of change that took Coventry City supporters by surprise. "I've always wanted to be a manager," Butcher, whose days at Ibrox appeared to be numbered after a public rift with the club's manager, Graeme Souness, said. "This is an ideal challenge for me."

"Opportunities like it don't come along very often," he said. "Coventry have a strong squad of players, including Kevin Drinkell, whom I played alongside with Rangers. I would like to be able to repeat the success I've had at Ibrox."

Butcher is heading into a new phase of his career after retiring from the England team and losing his position at Rangers. It became clear that he would have to leave the Glasgow club after Souness issued a statement last week, claiming that Butcher had refused to play in the Skol Cup final against Celtic on October 28 and had lost his affection for the Scottish champions.

Butcher, who was recovering from a knee injury, is thought to have been disconcerted by an effort by Rangers to transfer him to Leeds earlier in the week of the cup final.

Despite their differences, Souness has recently repeated his description of Butcher as the most important signing he has made for Rangers since becoming manager in 1986.

Butcher's way to Coventry was opened earlier in a statement from Poynton which said that Sillett had made it clear he would not sign a new contract next summer, and was being released immediately.

The speed of it all clearly surprised Sillett, who was ill at home yesterday with the symptoms of jaundice and in need of hospital tests. "I told the board that I would not take up a new contract at the end of my current one," he said. "I was ready to carry on but wanted to give them time to prepare. The timing of it could have been better," he said.

Butcher is due to take up his duties, with a team which has started the season disappointingly in the first division, 48 hours before a home game against Liverpool.

Taylor's old boy rescues the Irish

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Dublin

Republic of Ireland 1
England 1

ENGLAND were yesterday on the verge of breaking one of the world's most substantial records. The Republic of Ireland, unbeaten on their own soil since March 1986, were ten minutes away from defeat in the European football championship qualifying tie at Lansdowne Road when Tony Cascarino rose to preserve the lengthy run.

Therein lay an ironic twist. Cascarino was bought by Graham Taylor for £1.5 million last season to reinforce Aston Villa's fading championship challenge. Eight comparatively lean months later, the expensive centre forward was responsible for spoiling the unblemished sequence of the England manager. His side had neither conceded a goal nor dropped a point.

Poignantly, David Platt, another of Taylor's old boys at Villa, had put England ahead and given them a glimpse of a historic victory. Since Wales left here in triumph more than four years ago, 22 visitors had tried and failed to overcome Jack Charlton's awkward and unsophisticated team.

Taylor chose to attempt to dismantle the Irish myth without his most cultured representatives. Already without the injured John Barnes, he had to leave out Chris Waddle, who has a damaged ankle, and he also dared to omit Paul Gascoigne. Of the last 13 internationals, he had missed only one, and that through suspension.

Although the decision was considered controversial, the inevitably raw and red-blooded occasion would not have suited Gascoigne. In midfield England required controlled aggression, personified by Pearce and McMahon, and calm temperament, as exemplified by Cowans (whose last appearance in the national line-up coincided, incidentally, with Ireland's last defeat) and Platt.

Adams, equally logically, was brought back after a year's absence to counter the aerial threat posed by the elongated Quinn. Beardsley was also recalled in place of Bull to offer Lineker greater assistance. With Walker covering his taller central defensive colleagues, the formation, though laced with caution, made sense.

Since familiarity had been bred between the two sides, both in their weekly work in the League and from two recent meetings, the tie was never going to be an attractive and fluent exhibition. The style of the Irish, the gusting wind and the surface, which resembled a ploughed field, turned the afternoon into even more of an unappealing mess.

Group seven

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep of Ire	2	1	1	0	6	1	3
England	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Poland	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Turkey	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

RESULTS: England 2, Poland 0; Republic of Ireland 5, Turkey 0; Republic of Ireland 1, England 1; Poland 1, Turkey 0.
REMAINING FIXTURES: 1991: Mar 27: England v Republic of Ireland. April 17: Poland v Turkey. May 1: Turkey v England; Republic of Ireland v Poland. Oct 16: England v Turkey; Poland v Republic of Ireland. Nov 13: Poland v England; Turkey v Republic of Ireland.

When dark clouds scudded in from the west, bringing slanting rain with them, the picture refreshed the memories of the numbingly tedious World Cup tie in Cagliari which was staged amid a thunderstorm five months ago. At least the two sides were more positive but the quality was again indisputably poor.

England, with only four survivors from the collision in Sardinia, might have taken a hearteningly early lead at the end of the one charmingly constructive move amid an otherwise wretched first half. It was started and ended by men who were eager to erase painful recollections of the past.

McMahon, whose error in Cagliari allowed Sheedy to score Ireland's equalizer, released Pearce on a vacant left flank. In turn he freed Lineker, who admits that he missed several opportunities to punish the Irish in the European championship tie in Stuttgart two years ago. He did so again.

Yet the captain played a valuable and lonely role up front. He alone seemed genuinely capable of controlling a ball which, when it was not being propelled into the stratosphere, bobbled over the appallingly rutted surface and was swept hither and thither by the swirling wind.

England survived a particularly uncomfortable period after cautions had been issued to Beardsley, O'Leary and Whelan (apparently for a foul committed by McCarthy). Yet, apart from Whelan's driven free kick, Woods was not directly threatened. He would have been if the referee had interpreted Dixon's push on Townsend as an offence worthy of a penalty.

The England goalkeeper was alarmed by a bizarre incident on the hour. McCarthy, from a couple of yards inside his own half, launched a free kick that was carried by the wind, and Woods, stumbling in retreat, was relieved to see it graze the top of the bar. The 55-yard shot encapsulated Ireland's approach.

England were rarely able to design any attacks, let alone to go forward smoothly, but their goal in the 69th minute represented a gleam of tin in an otherwise leaden sea. The move was threaded between Platt, Lineker and Pearce before Dixon crossed low for Platt to apply the finishing touch.

Cascarino, holding off the challenge of Pearce and Adams, equalized from Staunton's cross to light the flames of belated Irish hope, but England held out. The point they gained is valuable, and perhaps even decisive, especially for the manager who risked incurring the national derision for dropping the favourite son.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: P Bonner (Celtic); C Morris (Celtic), S Staunton (Liverpool), M McCarthy (Millwall), D O'Leary (Arsenal), R Whelan (Liverpool, sub: A McLoughlin, Swindon Town), P McGrath (Aston Villa), R Houghton (Liverpool), N Quinn (Manchester City, sub: A Cascarino, Aston Villa), J Aldridge (Real Sociedad), A Townsend (Chelsea).
ENGLAND: C Woods (Rangers); L Dixon (Arsenal), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest), A Adams (Arsenal), D Walker (Nottingham Forest), M Wright (Derby County), D Platt (Aston Villa), G Cowans (Aston Villa), P Beardsley (Liverpool), G Lineker (Tottenham Hotspur), S McMahon (Liverpool).
Referee: P D'Elia (Italy).

● England players seemed surprised when their national anthem was not played before the match. The Republic of Ireland players broke ranks after their own anthem was completed, leaving the England team standing to attention in the centre of the pitch and awaiting *God Save The Queen*. The anthems of both nations are usually played before international fixtures.

PHIL O'BRIEN

So high, he could fly: Platt gives vent to soaring ecstasy after putting England ahead in the formidable fortress that is Lansdowne Road

Gascoigne omission justified by result

From Peter Ball
in Dublin

GRAHAM Taylor's decision to omit Paul Gascoigne may not have added to the spectacle at Lansdowne Road, but, with a point securely in the bag, the England manager did not have to apologise.

"The easiest decision would have been to leave him in," Taylor said, "but that would have been going against my instincts. Knowing what type of game it was going to be, in my mind I couldn't honestly see Paul being able to get enough touches to have any influence."

The England manager refused to claim that the omission of Gascoigne had required bravery, but there was no mistaking his readiness to brave criticism when he added: "I hope it shows that I will pick what I consider to be the right team for each individual game."

Taylor found a ready supporter in his opposite number, Jack Charlton.

"Paul's a great player on the ball and a good finisher," Charlton said, "but his best play is in the last third of the field, and Graham went for a more competitive mid-field.

"It was as hard as nails out there, there was a lot of passion, no one flinched a tackle all afternoon and Paul has got a lot of ability on the ball, but he's not the best ball winner off it."

Ironically, the goalscorers were both under Taylor's wing at Villa Park, with David Platt widely recognised as one of the great buys of Taylor's career. Cascarino was another matter, as the player confessed.

"Graham bought me for a lot of money with the clear intention that I would win him the title last season," he said, "but I'm afraid that just didn't happen. Maybe I let him down, but I've come back to haunt him in this match."

England pinch a point yet pose new questions

DAVID MILLER

Dublin

THE means justifies the end. Or does it? In a match if anything even more shapeless than that in Cagliari in the World Cup, England earned an important point yet surrendered much of the credibility with which they had finished their World Cup campaign. It was a match which posed more questions than it resolved.

In a madhouse of frantic challenge, on the ground and in the air, neither side played three consecutive passes more than half a dozen times. The ball was so high in the air so often that, in my seat in the upper deck of the grandstand, I regularly thought I was about to become involved in the play.

In one sense, Graham Taylor succeeded with his controversial though justifiable gamble of omitting Gascoigne from midfield. Selecting McMahon to anchor the central midfield, immediately in front of the defence, gave England some stability. Yet the benefit was counter-balanced by the fact that McGrath, in spite of a bad knee, totally dominated the veteran and now mute Cowans, preferred to Gascoigne as a creator.

Platt had little change in his confrontation with Whelan, apart from the superbly judged run that brought England's goal, and it must be doubtful whether Gascoigne would have made an impact within the general turmoil.

The memory, for English viewers, will be of constant confusion in the centre of England's defence. Adams showed all the frailties which were familiar when he played in the European championship finals of 1988. Wright, obsessed with the manager's insistence that the defence should not play deep, was more often in the fray as a marker, contesting high balls alongside Walker and Adams, than dropping off to pick up deflected balls as a sweeper.

The consequence was that the whole England defence was regularly turned, exactly as Ireland intended, with Adams and, even occasionally, Walker making errors under pressure. In the last quarter of an hour of each half, England lived in constant alarm. There was an awful moment three minutes from time when Pearce miskicked only for Houghton to squander a gaping chance.

Predictably, England's full backs, Dixon and Pearce, found themselves effectively in midfield opposition against Townsend and Houghton. Not surprisingly, the Irish pair looked the better footballers.

Dixon's limitations were at times a liability and Taylor, in the future, must surely consider whether he should continue with full backs against opposition with no wingers when the need is more for midfield flexibility. Playing with a sweeper and two central defenders would have look more sound if England had controlled the midfield.

As it was, for all McMahon's resolution, England were at times playing three against four in the middle third of the pitch. Townsend was justifiably named man of the match — though not much ahead of McMahon — even if such a title on such a day was hardly the ultimate in prestige.

The oddest decision by Taylor seemed to me the exclusion of Parker, who is the quickest of the defensive players and a far more controlled tackler than Dixon. It can, and indeed should, be argued that this was a one-off occasion — to be repeated unfortunately next year at Wembley — and that it does not give a guide to the future any more than did the match in Cagliari.

It did, however, give a guide to individuals and, in that analysis, there was not too much that was favourable for Cowans, Adams or Dixon; nor, too much of the time, for Woods. The number of times he came for a high ball simultaneously with his central defenders and missed it was potentially disastrous, though never punished.

The question of understanding between goalkeeper and defence is one which must be solved in a hurry, though the number of matches available are inevitably widely strung out.

Up front, Lineker and Beardsley attempted to build bricks without straw and constantly found themselves like commuters trying to go the opposite way against a rush-hour crowd. There were only two moments of clear cohesion for England, from the second of which they scored.

In the 68th minute, Lineker, who throughout looked like a Derby runner caught up in some rural point-to-point, slipped the ball to the right where McMahon and Dixon were both free in a quick counter-attack, which had begun from a mishit clearance by Woods. Dixon's well-judged final pass across the goalmouth to the galloping Platt seemed, for the next 12 minutes, to have stolen both points.

The previous clear opening, in the eleventh minute, had also involved McMahon, this time with the other full back. When Pearce glided the ball square, Lineker sliced his shot as Bonner came off the line and left the goal gaping — almost as he had done in Cagliari.

England were exceedingly lucky not to give away either of two penalties which might have been awarded against Wright and Dixon in the first half for respective fouls on Quinn and Townsend.

The match was indeed a purist's nightmare but, for the committed, it ran along on an unending stream of highly charged incident. England can be thankful to have escaped with something in the bank.

MATCH FACTS

At Lansdowne Road. Att: 45,000. Ref: P D'Elia (Italy).

HT: 0-0. **REP OF IRELAND 1 ENGLAND 1**

	REP OF IRELAND	ENGLAND
Scorers:	Cascarino 79	Platt 67
Cautions:	O'Leary 28, Whelan 30	Beardsley 25
Subs:	Cascarino 62 (Quinn), McLoughlin 74 (Whelan)	None

	REP OF IRELAND		ENGLAND	
Shots (on target/total)	3	10	2	4
Corners (left/right)	3	3	1	3
Crosses (left/right)	18	11	6	7
Free kicks/pens conceded	19	-	26	-
Cautions/sendings off	2	-	1	-
Offsides	0		2	
Possession (gained/lost)	43	102	50	99

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Player	Goal attempt	Crosses L	Crosses R	Fouls By	Fouls On
Bonner	-	-	-	-	2
Morris	-	-	3	-	3
Staunton	-	8	1	2	4
McCarthy	2	-	1	3	-
O'Leary	-	1	1	3	1
McGrath	-	1	1	1	-
Houghton	2	1	2	-	2
Whelan	3	4	2	1	1
Quinn	1	-	-	2	2
Aldridge	-	1	-	3	1
Townsend	1	1	-	1	5
Cascarino	1	-	-	2	2
McLoughlin	-	1	-	-	-

Unused: Peyton, Sheridan, Hughton.

ENGLAND

Player	Goal attempt	Crosses L	Crosses R	Fouls By	Fouls On
Woods	-	-	-	-	3
Dixon	1	-	3	2	-
Pearce	-	2	-	3	1
Adams	-	-	-	2	3
Walker	-	-	1	1	1
Wright	-	-	-	5	-
Platt	1	1	-	5	2
Cowans	-	2	2	-	-
Beardsley	1	-	1	2	1
Lineker	1	-	-	-	5
McMahon	-	1	-	3	2

Unused: Seaman, Stevens, Gascoigne, Bull, Daley.

● Compiled by Julian Desborough.

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FIH decision rules out England

By Alix Ramsay

THE arguments about which women's hockey team should represent Britain in the Olympic qualifying competition next year began anew yesterday when it was announced that the International Hockey Federation (FIH) was expecting Great Britain, and not England, to take part.

The news, which was released by the Great Britain women's hockey Olympic committee, represents an about-face on the part of the FIH.

Two years ago, Great Britain proposed that they should take part in the qualifying competition but Etienne Glitich, the president of the FIH, wrote to the Great Britain hockey board, saying that a nominated team, England, Scotland or Wales, [illegible] ing Union. [illegible] New Zealand next October.

For the last two years, both Great Britain and England — the nominated country — have been working on the basis of that letter.

So when in October the FIH announced that Great Britain was one of the teams eligible to play in New Zealand, members of the management committees of both England and Great Britain thought it was a mistake. Now they have learnt it was not.

For its part, the FIH claimed to be surprised at the confusion. It maintains that the minutes of its meeting in September 1988 state that Great Britain is the only team eligible to qualify for a place in the Olympics.

The battle has left a trail of fury and frustration in its wake as Barbara Holland, [illegible] Women's Hockey Association, explained:

"There seems to be a discrepancy between the minutes of the meeting and that letter. Our official reaction was that we were angry.

"We thought that we knew what we were doing and since 1988 we made our plans on the basis that we were going to the qualifying tournament. It is disappointing for the manager, the coach and the players who have worked so hard to qualify to go to New Zealand by coming fourth in the World Cup.

"I am desperately sorry for the players. They have been pushed from pillar to post and were looking forward to next year and now they are told they are not going."

Caught at the sharp end of the argument is Jenny Cardwell, the England manager.

"I feel helpless," she said. "I don't know what to tell the players. People want to know why things have changed and nobody is giving us any answers. I honestly believe the FIH should come forward with an explanation."

European draw, page 40

Place for Marling

Sally Marling, aged 14, has been chosen for England's final group match against Netherlands in the European women's table tennis league in Groningen on Tuesday. Marling, from Yorkshire, was heavily defeated on her debut during the recent tour of Sweden.

Britain make a move to set new standards

BRITAIN'S Olympic competitors in Barcelona in 1992 will be of the highest quality possible following a strict selection policy adopted by the British Olympic Association (BOA) general purposes committee yesterday.

All British competitors will now need to show the potential to finish in the leading 16 of their respective events, or must meet worldwide selection standards set by their international federations, to be considered for selection.

"We must have some kind of quality control," Dick Palmer, the BOA general secretary, said. "We have been pleased with the positive response of our member sports on this issue. It is not a question of reducing numbers but increasing standards."

Sir Arthur Gold, the BOA chairman, said: "Britain's Olympic competitors must set an example to the sporting youth of the nation. This new policy shows our responsible attitude towards the need to reduce overall numbers at the Games."

Gold's statement seemed to conflict slightly with Palmer's view. But Mike Farrell, secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association, said that Gold was merely being realistic. "We obviously view with some concern the statement made by the BOA but can understand the reasons behind it," Farrell said. "If we had a borderline case, we would hope that they would have a sympathetic view."

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FOOTBALL

Spirit of makeshift Scottish team surprises Bulgarians

From Roddy Forsyth in Sofia

Bulgaria	1
Scotland	1

A MAKESHIFT collection of players, who had an average of only a dozen caps each, secured Scotland's status as favourites to qualify for the finals of the European championship for the first time.

They led for most of the match after an early goal by McCoist and rarely looked like surrendering their advantage, although they endured one period of intense Bulgarian pressure in the first half.

Forced to scavenge for talent to compose a credible international team, Andy Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, discovered yet again that in adversity his players are capable of reaching deep into their reserves of character. Special mention must be made of the indefatigable Durie, whose persistent running and tackling, as well as his distribution personified the Scots performance. Also outstanding were the central defensive pair of McPherson and Gillespie.

In midfield, too, where the Scots had feared that they might be overrun, McInally, of Dundee United, and McAllister, of Leeds United, formed a balanced and attractive partnership.

It was in the Vassil Levski stadium three years ago that Scotland ended Bulgaria's hopes of reaching the finals with a 2-1 victory. The home team were once more left to rue the spirit of their visitors.

The first half was heartening for Scotland, although Bulgarians were aggrieved about the Austrian referee's decision to ignore their claim for a penalty when Boyd slid into Syrakov and brought him to the ground. However, Herr Kaupe, judged that Syrakov had begun to fall before the Scot made contact and examination of the television replay indicated that the referee had been correct.

This followed the Scots' only confused moment of the opening 45 minutes when three attempts to clear the lines around Goram ended in failure and allowed Penev to gather possession.

He contrived to curve a shot around the goalkeeper from an acute angle and the ball came off the crossbar to fall beyond the opposite edge of the area, where Durie was obliged to foul Balakov to ease the pressure. From the free kick Syrakov was offered an unopposed header, but he glanced his effort wide.

These incidents aside, however, the Bulgarians rarely looked the formidable side which had been implied by their 3-0 victory over Romania in Bucharest last month. The vulnerability in central defence which Roxburgh had previously believed to be an evident fault, was exposed by the Scots' first serious attack.

Boyd belied the fact that he was making only his third appearance for Scotland with a forceful surge down the left flank. He showed the ball to Dochev and then knocked it past the full back.

Boyd then delivered the kind of cross which European goalkeepers dislike most, curling away from goal towards the penalty spot. Sure enough Mihailov came for it, flapped at the ball and succeeded only in pushing it towards Durie, from whose knee it rebounded. As the ball fell back towards the far post McCoist arrived to shoot low into the vacant net. It took Bulgaria an hour to haul themselves on to level terms.

This they achieved in the seventieth minute when Stoychkov cut the ball low back across the goalmouth. Failure to clear permitted Todorov, who had come on as a substitute for Balakov, scope for a drive which deflected off McKimmie and looped over Goram to drop below the crossbar for an equaliser which guaranteed that the Scots would endure a torrid conclusion.

BULGARIA: B Mihailov (Belenenses); P Dochev (Lokomotiv Sofia), D Mladenov (CSKA), Z Yankov (Levsky), K Bankov (CSKA), K Yanchev (CSKA), G Yordanov (Gijon), H Stoychkov (Barcelona), L Penev (Valencia), N Syrakov (Español), K Balakov (Etar).

SCOTLAND: A Goram (Hibernian); S McKimmie (Aberdeen), M Malpas (Dundee Utd), J McInally (Dundee Utd), D McPherson (Heart of Midlothian), G Gillespie (Liverpool), G Durie (Chelsea, sub: P Nevin, Everton), G McAllister (Leeds United), A McCoist (Rangers), B McClair (Manchester United), T Boyd (Motherwell).

Referee: F Kaupe (Austria).

Group two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
Bulgaria	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Romania	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
San Marino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

● *Not including last night's game between San Marino and Switzerland.*

RESULTS: Scotland 2, Romania 1; Switzerland 2, Bulgaria 0; Scotland 2, Switzerland 1; Romania 0, Bulgaria 3; Bulgaria 1 Scotland 1.

REMAINING FIXTURES: Dec 5: Romania v San Marino. 1991: Mar 27: Scotland v Bulgaria; San Marino v Romania. April 3: Switzerland v Romania. May 1: San Marino v Scotland; Bulgaria v Switzerland. May 22: San Marino v Bulgaria. June 5: Switzerland v San Marino. Sept 11: Switzerland v Scotland. Oct 16: Romania v Scotland; Bulgaria v San Marino. Nov 13: Scotland v San Marino; Romania v Switzerland. Nov 20: Bulgaria v Romania.

Uefa moves to restrict contact

BERNE (Reuter) — The European governing body, Uefa, is considering forbidding the use of walkie-talkies by coaches who have been banned from the touchline for disciplinary reasons.

"We are aware of this use of high technology to circumvent what is a punishment for misbehaviour," Rene Eberle, Uefa's control and disciplinary committee spokesman, said yesterday. "It is a loophole that should be closed and we are examining it."

Eberle was responding to a report that Uli Stielike, the Swiss coach, intended to use a custom-built walkie-talkie after being banned from the pitch for Switzerland's group two European championship match in San Marino yesterday.

Stielike, a former German World Cup player, was banned for three matches for persistent protests about refereeing decisions during his side's 2-1 defeat against Scotland in Glasgow last month. The Swiss football association has appealed against the ban.

Eberle confirmed that the ban included all access to the field and the team's dressing room. Stielike said he would talk to his players before the match and during the break.

"Mr Stielike is a spectator at this match," Erberle said. "Our official observer has been given the necessary instructions to ensure he stays one."

Uefa's control and disciplinary committee starts a two-day meeting today.

Rioting by German supporters at a European championship qualifying match against Luxembourg last month is on the agenda.

"We are awaiting more information so any decision will probably have to wait until the committee meets again next January," Eberle said.

Thirty German supporters were arrested and 12 injured in rioting in the centre of Luxembourg on the night of the group five match which Germany won 3-2.

● NAIROBI: The Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar is to host the East and Central Africa Senior Challenge Cup tournament next month, a regional football official said yesterday (Reuter reports).

James Tirop, the secretary of the Confederation of Football Associations, said that the annual tournament would be staged on Zanzibar from December 8 to 19.

Zanzibar last hosted the event in 1976 when Uganda won the title. They won it again last year.

Tirop added that the 1990 tournament has been divided into two groups. Group A will comprise Zanzibar, Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, and Group B Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda.

The semi-finals of the tournament, which is to be held in Zanzibar's Amani stadium, are set for December 17, with the final two days later.

The Challenge Cup has its origins in the Gossage Cup, a trophy donated by a Kenya-based British businessman in the early 1930s to promote East African football. The tournament started in 1973.

● John Gayle, who was to have transferred from Wimbledon to Fulham for £150,000, has failed to agree terms with the third division side.

Wegerle is the type for Taylor

By George Ace

ROY Wegerle, the talented young forward, of Queen's Park Rangers, faces an international dilemma of whether to throw in his lot with England or pursue his World Cup ambitions with the United States. He went a long way towards proving he is real England material at Windsor Park, Belfast, on Tuesday.

Playing for the Football League side against the Irish League, Wegerle produced a dazzling array of ball skills and spared the blushes of a League side — valued at around £20 million — with a superb equalising goal on the hour.

Born in South Africa, Wegerle, aged 23, is married to an American, which makes him eligible to play for the United States in the 1994 World Cup. It will, however, be a surprise if Graham Taylor, the England manager, allows him to escape

Clough, with his superb distribution and general awareness up front, Le Tissier, of the subtle touch, and Pallister, a commanding figure at the back and ever-ready to advance, were the pick of the Football League side along with Wegerle.

For the part-timers of the Irish League, who could possibly be purchased lock, stock and barrel for less than £200,000, Neill had an outstanding game at right back while Strain, who won the man-of-the-match award, was reliable at the heart of the defence.

A crowd of 3,600 turned up and Murray's strike in the 38th minute, following a glorious four-man counter-attack also featuring Byrne, Douglas and Burrows, was a moment to savour.

TENNIS

Return to sender: Lendl puts his stamp of authority on this shot as he beats Muster

Joint tests for drugs agreed

By Andrew Longmore, Tennis Correspondent

TENNIS came a step closer to a unified programme of drug-testing yesterday at the ATP world championships in Frankfurt when the Association of Tennis Professionals and the Women's Tennis Association announced a joint procedure for testing for 1991.

Under the new policy, which divides drugs into performance-enhancing and non-performance-enhancing drugs, players will be automatically suspended for nine months for a first offence and banned *for life for a* second offence if they are tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs such as steroids or masking agents.

Testing will be carried out randomly on the men's and women's tours, with standard procedures recognised by the International Olympic Committee. Any player found guilty of taking non-performance-enhancing or "social" drugs will have mandatory treatment paid for by the ATP or WTA. But the results of the latter tests will not be released, despite criticism of that secrecy in the past.

The ATP has been operating its own drug-testing programme since 1987 but has tested players at only three tournaments this year. The agreement with the WTA standardises the lists of prohibited substances and puts the associations in line with testing procedures already set down by the ITF, in conjunction with the IOC, at their meeting in Athens in July.

The main problem is to persuade countries such as France, where testing for sporting events is compulsory anyway, to accept the joint programme. At the French Open this year, testing procedures implemented by the government were so haphazard that the WTA refused to accept the results of the tests.

On court, Emilio Sánchez's challenge in the ATP championships effectively ended yesterday before Boris Becker's had begun. Sánchez, beaten by Stefan Edberg in three sets the previous night, also lost to Pete Sampras and, as the only player in the top 10 in singles and doubles, can make early passage to Australia, where he is due to partner Sergio Casal in the finals of the doubles championships next week.

After his defeat by Agassi in his opening group match, Sampras kept alive his chance of a place in the semi-finals with his most authoritative performance and first straight-sets victory since the final of the US Open in September.

Sampras had suffered the indignity of being outserved by Agassi, who has been working on his service over the past two months. "He was hitting hard and flat. At the US Open he was just kicking his serve in, letting me dictate. He served unbelievably well," the US Open champion said.

Despite continued pain from *his shins, Sampras responded to* that defeat by returning to his natural game. He raced through the first set, refused to be put off by an extraordinary reverse lob executed by Sánchez as he headed for the back-netting halfway through the second set and broke decisively with a backhand volley in the ninth game to win 6-2 6-4.

"Things have happened very quickly for me this year and I still have to prove that I can play with the big boys, but if I play like I did today, I am capable of winning here," he said.

RESULTS: A Agassi (US) bt P Sampras (US), 6-4, 6-2; I Lendl (Cz) bt T Muster (Austria), 6-3, 6-3; P Sampras bt E Sánchez (Sp), 6-2, 6-4.
ORDER OF PLAY: I Lendl v A Gómez, B Becker v T Muster, A Agassi v E Sánchez.

Graf out of sorts but still too commanding

From Barry Wood in New York

STEFFI Graf, struck down again by sickness, was taken to the edge of defeat by a tenacious Jennifer Capriati in the first round of the Virginia Slims championship here, but survived to win 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Whether she will finish the week, though, remains to be seen. She was unable to attend the post-match interview, and it was left to a spokeswoman from the Women's Tennis Association to announce that Graf was suffering from flu and nausea.

Last week, in New England, she was apparently taking antibiotics in response to a virus, and had considered withdrawing from this week's tournament. Martina Navratilova's absence, because of injury, announced last Friday, may have influenced Graf's decision not to do so. Still, as recently as Monday she declared she "could not be in much better condition".

In fact, she looked dreadful against Capriati, pale and in great distress, and it was surprising that she completed the match. Fortunately, she received some assistance from Capriati, who, having raised her arms in triumph at winning the second set, proceeded to serve three double faults

But she served extremely well, at speeds of up to 100mph, and her driving, double-handed backhand and powerful forehand service returns and passes often left Graf helpless.

Had Graf not enjoyed the cushion of a start that saw her win the first 13 points, the outcome might well have been different, not because Capriati is ready to beat Graf, but because poor health has once again proved to be her greatest opponent.

RESULTS: First round: C Martinez (Sp) bt Z Garrison (US), 6-3, 6-0; K Maleeva (Bul) bt H Sukova (Cz), 6-3, 6-3; S Graf (Ger) bt J Capriati (US), 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

Wood forced to drop out of last eight

TWO quarter-finalists, Clare Wood, the only British seed to reach the last eight, and Jonna Jonnerup, of Sweden, dropped out of the Texaco women's challenger tournament at Swindon, yesterday because of illness.

Wood, from Sussex, has a stomach ailment. She was the second seed and the favourite to win the £25,000 international tournament after the withdrawal of the top seed, Sara Gomer, through injury.

In one of the surviving two matches, Sandrine Testud, aged 18, from France won her eighth match in two weeks to reach the semi-finals. She beat the fourth seed, Andrea Mueller, of Germany, 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 to join two other unseeded players in the last four.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: K Oeljeklaus (Ger) bt L Laskova (Cz), 6-0, 6-1; S Testud (Fr) bt A Mueller (Ger), 6-7, 6-4, 6-2; R Bobkova (Cz) wo J Jonnerup (Swe), scr; D Monami (Bel) wo C Wood (GB), scr.

GOLF

Late arrival of key players disrupts big match practice

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Orlando

EUROPE'S preparations for the inaugural Solheim Cup, which starts here tomorrow on the Lake Nona course, have been severely disrupted by the absence of two key players.

But Mickey Walker, the captain of Europe, is convinced that despite the late arrival of Liselotte Neumann, the former US Open champion, and Marie Laure de Lorenzi, the United States will still face a formidable challenge.

Neumann is under a cloud after accepting a lucrative offer to compete in a television exhibition match with Curtis Strange in Japan and Lorenzi was delayed in her journey from her native France.

"It's very unfortunate and totally out of my control," Walker said. "Liselotte's exhibition was arranged months ago, prior to the team being decided, but I think in future we will need to stipulate that all players must be available for the entire week.

"It's certainly not the ideal preparation for a match as important as this one and although Liselotte knows the course she is going to have to get over jetlag. The journey from Japan to America can be pretty tough.

"But I'm convinced she will be as ready as each member of the team especially when the adrenalin starts flowing. Liselotte will perform up to her eyeballs."

The trouble is that officials, including the sponsors, are determined that the most important match in the history of women's professional golf should be taken seriously. Joe Flanagan, executive director of the Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour, said: "My personal point of view is that if there was a similar situation in the future then the player concerned should not play in the match."

What also seems strange is that less than 48 hours before the start of a match which Walker claims "could transform the European golf scene", the players, of both sides, were on a visit to Universal Studios. Players in the Ryder Cup would certainly be more concerned with getting to know a course new to them rather than sightseeing.

"We need a good result," Walker said. "I don't think the players realise what it will do if we win. It would have an unbelievable effect on women's golf in Europe. Look what happened in the Ryder Cup.

"The Americans are a stronger team on paper but we have two world-class stars in Laura Davies and Liselotte, who have both won the US Open, and let's face it, Europe didn't start winning the Ryder Cup until Sandy Lyle and Nick Faldo started winning majors."

The Americans, too, believe the match will not be a walkover. Nancy Lopez, one of their leading players, said: "Three years ago, this competition wouldn't have been viable. But the Europeans have improved so much."

Leaders move into a rare spotlight

From John Hennessy in Montpellier

TWO countries with thin traditions took their place in the limelight on the fifth day of the PGA European Tour qualifying school at La Grande Motte yesterday. Rob Huff, the American overnight leader, still clings to the lead, on 354, but has to share it with Daniel Silva and Per Haugsrud, the only playing professionals of Portugal and Norway respectively.

Silva's round was golden, a 65 in a strong wind and rapidly-falling temperature, conditions which had most players settling readily for a par 72. Haugsrud scored an admirable 70, but Huff declined from 12 under par to six under with a 78.

The best-placed British player is Steven Bottomley, who brought in a 72. "Nick Faldo stuff," he called it. Nick Job, playing his first school at the age of 41, advanced to joint 44th place with a 70 and is not far away from the target he set himself of finishing in the top 10. Only five strokes now stand between him and that aim.

Silva, aged 24, had a distinguished record as an amateur. He is an able golfer, of Ian Woosnam build, who yesterday wielded a putter touched with magic. "I only had to look at a putt," he said, "and in it went." All told, he used the club only 26 times, even so, the key to his round, he thought, was his par 4 at the first and second (his 10th and 11th) where he had to hit a driver and one iron against the wind.

Haugsrud, aged 25, has been adopted by the Swedes and has played on their tour for three years, spurning the direct entry to the PGA School of 1988 and 1989 in the belief that he was not ready. He was not surprised at receiving his card, which seems now a formality today, but he did not expect to find himself in the lead. Three putts on the ninth, his last, prevented him from being out on his own.

LEADING SCORES (British and Irish unless stated): 354: D Silva (Port), 69, 74, 72, 74, 65; P Haugsrud (Nor), 72, 69, 73, 70, 70; R Huff (US), 67, 71, 70, 68, 78. 355: J Townsend (US), 71, 68, 71, 73, 72. 356: S Luna (Sp), 70, 69, 73, 73, 71. 357: P U Johansson (Swe), 72, 70, 70, 68, 77. 358: S Bottomley, 69, 69, 75, 73, 72. 359: J Anglada (Sp), 71, 73, 71, 72, 72. 360: L Hederstrom (Swe), 75, 65, 79, 75, 66; C Cookson (US), 71, 71, 74, 73, 71; K Trimble (Aus), 73, 72, 72, 73, 70; T Dodds (Nam), 68, 76, 74, 73, 69; A Gillner (Swe), 71, 70, 76, 74, 69; A Hunter, 70, 70, 73, 74, 73.

361: M Thomas, 69, 72, 76, 76, 68; M Fernández (Arg), 75, 69, 73, 72, 72; F Lindgren (Swe), 71, 75, 72, 70, 73; J Pettitt, 70, 75, 69, 73, 74; L Tinkler (Aus), 73, 71, 71, 72, 74; P Hall, 75, 71, 73, 67, 75; R Winchester, 70, 71, 74, 71, 75; M Pendariès (Fr), 68, 73, 73, 71, 76; J P Price, 75, 71, 70, 67, 78. 362: R Karlsson (Swe), 74, 73, 74, 73, 68; H Green 71, 71, 77, 75, 68; C Hardin (Swe), 73, 73, 74, 69, 73; L Vannet, 74, 71, 71, 72, 74; P Hedblom (Swe), 75, 71, 71, 71, 74; C Van Der Veldt (Neth), 70, 70, 74, 73, 75; K Jones, 73, 71, 72, 71, 75.

363: W McColl, 73, 75, 72, 75, 68; O Eskildsen (Den), 73, 75, 75, 72, 68; R Lee, 75, 71, 78, 69, 70; J Hobday, 73, 73, 75, 71, 71; J Coceres (Arg), 72, 72, 71, 73, 75; G Day (US), 75, 74, 71, 68, 75. Other scores included: 364: P Mayo. 365: N Jones, I Mosey. 366: D Clarke. 368: J McHenry. 370: A Hare, J Robinson.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Doubt on Elias before Elland Road decider

By Keith Macklin

INJURY problems yesterday beset both the British and Australian camps as they prepared for the third and deciding British Coal international at Elland Road.

Worst hit are the Australians, whose hooker, Benny Elias, man of the match in the second international, was taken to hospital in what was described as "excruciating pain" to have a kidney stone removed. The Australian coach, Bobby Fulton, said: "We will be led by medical opinion on this, but we are confident that Elias will be fit for the Elland Road match."

Martin Offiah, the Great Britain wing who was taken off with a knee injury during the international at Old Trafford, is optimistic that he will be fit to play in the decider following a specialist examination.

He will be treated for the remainder of the week at a London clinic and he said yesterday: "I am hoping to be fit for Elland Road, but cannot be sure that I will make it in time for the Widnes match against Australia on Sunday."

● Wigan is planning to take legal action against Western Suburbs, the Australian club, to obtain compensation for the games missed by Ellery Hanley since he returned injured from a guest spell with the Sydney club last year. He was suffering from a pelvic injury and did not play for Wigan again until December, missing 19 matches.

So far, Wigan have received no response to their compensation claim despite an agreement that they would be covered in case of injury.

● St Helens lost £37,000 last season, after making a profit of £69,000 during the previous 12 months.

FISHING

Refreshing approach to a forgotten friend

By Jack Crossley

THERE are fish that are stunningly beautiful and fish that are frighteningly ugly. It makes no matter. They all have devoted followers; some fishermen go so far as to pay homage to eels.

Jim Gibbinson is a tench man and has written a book revealing his devotion to this slimy species, even after calling them stupid, Cinderella fish.

Stupid, because they never learn to move on once anglers have discovered where to catch them. Cinderellas, because they have been overtaken by the cult of the big carp, with the carp record at 44lb and the tench record at 14lb 3oz.

Gibbinson's book is packed with the usual technical information to be found in most fishing books, but has two added ingredients not often found in this oversubscribed area of publishing: it is entertainingly written and it is controversial.

"God, I hate anglers," he writes in one chapter, revealing how a favourite swim was vandalised by "some of the morons with whom we are compelled to share our waters".

He also hates keep nets, and writes: "No fish should be retained in a keep net — ever. The abolition of keep nets would be a major conservation measure and would lead to a dramatic improvement in the condition and survival rate of captured fish. Yes, it would mean an end to conventional match-fishing — but the practice of retaining fish in keep nets is completely indefensible and we have to decide which is more important, match fishing or conservation. My answer is: 'No contest'."

Barbed letters will almost certainly appear in the angling press.

Tench, by Jim Gibbinson. Beckay's Successful Angling Series; £10.95; Beckay Publishers, Henlow Camp, Bedfordshire.

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RACING

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RUGBY UNION

World Cup on course to take in £25m

THE Rugby World Cup's commercial advisers made yesterday a bullish response to criticism that the economic side on the 1991 tournament could fall short of expectation (David Hands writes). Despite the recession, Alan Callan, the managing director of CPMA, said he expected the event to raise not less than £25 million, of which nearly half would come from television and video rights.

With little more than ten months to go before the tournament begins in Britain, Ireland and France, the organisers have been buffeted by requests for information about the sponsorship programme — on which subject only one major company, Heinz UK, has gone public. But Callan remains confident that the major sponsors, in different categories such as brewers, soft drinks, computers, carriers and power generators, are all at advanced stages of negotiation.

Callan said that agreement on the proposed eight major sponsors had been difficult to organise because they had to cross the laws of three different countries — that is France, Ireland and England, Scotland and Wales.

"Rugby World Cup has not been recognised within the corporate culture as a four-yearly event," Callan said. "That is changing and will affect the way we look at the 1995 tournament."

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

European championship

Group seven

REP OF IRE (0) 1 — ENGLAND (0) 1
Cascarino 79 — Platt 67
46,000

Group two

BULGARIA (0) 1 — SCOTLAND (1) 1
Todorov 76 — McCoist 9
42,000

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Fulham 3, Wimbledon 0; Reading 2, Norwich 2.
CAPITAL FINANCE AND LEASING SOUTH-WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cardiff 1, Torquay 2; Exeter 2, Bristol Rovers 5.
PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Belenenses 2, Salgueiros 0; Boavista 2, Farense 0; Braga 1, Benfica 3; Estrela da Amadora 1, Penafiel 0; Famalicão 1, Maritimo 0.

Late results on Tuesday
B AND Q SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Clyde 1, Brechin City 1.
CENTENARY MATCH: Irish League 1, English League 1.
LEYLAND DAF CUP: Preliminary round: Cardiff City 0, Exeter City 1.
UEFA UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group one: Czechoslovakia 3, Spain 1. Group four: Denmark 3, Yugoslavia 0.
HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Fleetwood 3, Droylsden 2; Mossley 2, Witton 4; Southport 3, South Liverpool 4. First division: Eastwood 3, Winsford 0.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Baldock 1, Buckingham 2. [illegible] Windows Cup: First round, second leg: Ashford 3, Dartford 0 (agg 6-2); Moor Green 2, Tamworth 2 (agg 3-3; Tamworth win on away goals). Postponed: Bilston v Bromsgrove. Second round, first leg: Cambridge City 2, VS Rugby 1; Grantham 2, Nuneaton 1; King's Lynn 3, Corby 0; Waterlooville 2, Newport IOW 1; Witney 0, Barry 2.
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool 2, Sheffield Wednesday 0. Second division: Bradford City 3, Burnley 3; Notts County 0, West Bromwich 1; Oldham 3, Mansfield 2.
ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Third round: Wrexham 3, Worcester 1. Third round replay: Newtown 1, Hereford 1 (Hereford win on penalties).
FA VASE: First round replays: Banstead 2, Corinthian 1; Ramsgate 0, Merstham 2.
GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Clevedon 3, Radstock 2; Elmore 0, Exmouth 2; Liskeard 2, Barnstaple 0; Paulton 3, Frome 2.
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton 3, Brantham 1; Halstead 5, Histon 0; Harwich and Parkeston 3, Haverhill 1; Newmarket 1, Chatteris 3; Watton 4, Great Yarmouth 1; Wisbech 4, Wroxham 0.
BELGIAN LEAGUE: Mechelen 2, FC Liège 0.

BADMINTON

BANDUNG, Indonesia: World Cup: First round: Men's singles: Group A: Yang Yang (China) bt P Jantti (Fin), 15-6, 15-13; E Kurniawan (Indo) bt J Olsson (Swe), 18-14, 17-14. Group B: A B Kusuma (Indo) bt A Nielsen (GB), 15-12, 15-7; Wu Wenkai (China) bt Foo Kok Keong (Mal), 15-8, 15-11. Group C: Zhao Jianhua (China) bt N Skaby (Den), 15-6, 15-5; S Kukasemkij (Thai) bt Kwan Yoke Meng (Mal), 10-15, 15-6, 15-6. Group D: R Sidek (Mal) bt Lee Kwan Jin (S Kor), 15-5, 15-9; A Wiranata (Indo) bt D Hall (GB), 15-4, 17-14. Women's singles: Group A: Huang Hua (China) bt H Troke (GB), 11-7, 10-12, 11-8. Group B: S Susanti (Indo) bt S Jaroensiri (Thai), 11-9, 12-9. Group C: Tang Jiuhong (China) bt E Coene (Neth), 11-7, 11-2. Group D: Lee Young Suk (S Kor) bt A Miyamura (Japan), 8-11, 11-8, 11-1.

GOLF

ESTELA, Portugal: Longshot Estela pro-am: 141: B Cameron (Sundridge Park), 69, 70. 144: K Macdonald (Goodwood), 69, 75. 146: B Stephenson (Kirby Muxloe), 75, 70. 148: M McLean (Chesterfield), 77, 71; T Bennett (Newark), 74, 74. 153: L Farmer (West Middlesex), 77, 76; C Rota (unattached), 79, 74. 154: R Fidler (West Kent), 73, 81.

CYCLING

MUNICH: Six-day race: Final positions: 1, D Clark (Aus) and A Doyle (GB), 303pts; 2, one lap behind, P Bincoletto and A Baffi (It), 447; 3, O Ludwig (Ger) and U Freuler (Switz), 430; 4, A Kappes (Ger) and E de Wilde (Bel), 389; 5, two laps behind, C Tourné (Bel) and J Veggerby (Den), 249.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland Cavaliers 121, Atlanta Hawks 104; Charlotte Hornets 120, Washington Bullets 105; Detroit Pistons 118, Miami Heat 93; Philadelphia 76ers 108, Indiana Pacers 100; Orlando Magic 109, Dallas Mavericks 103; Golden State Warriors 128, San Antonio Spurs 124; Houston Rockets 90, Minnesota Timberwolves 86; Milwaukee Bucks 119, Boston Celtics 91; Chicago Bulls 84, Utah Jazz 82; New York Knicks 116, Seattle Supersonics 110 (OT); Phoenix Suns 112, Los Angeles Lakers 111; Portland Trail Blazers 155, Denver Nuggets 129.

BOWLS

EGHAM: English Womens Indoor Bowling Association 119, English Indoor Bowling Association 95. Rink scores (EWIBA skips first): M Steele 24, T Blake 13; N Shaw 26, A Ward 10; B Alderson 27, J Groom 22; E Schooling 18, G Firmin 12; M Lockwood 10, P Vasvacopoulos 22; B Stubbins 14, J Davidson 15.
COUNTY MATCHES: Berkshire 135, Warwickshire 104; Hertfordshire 180, Hertfordshire women 152.

BOXING

HARTLEPOOL: WBC international featherweight title (12 rnds): John Davison (Newcastle, holder) bt Hwang Hyun Jae (S Kor), rsc, 5th rnd. Super-featherweight (6 rnds): Brian Roche (Bacup) bt Harry Escott (Sunderland), rsc, 3rd rnd. Lightweight: Paul Charters (North Shields) bt John Smith (Liverpool), rsc, 4th rnd.
BOMBAY: World Cup: Bantamweight: Quarter-finals: W McCullough (Eire) bt Park Kyu Duk (S Kor), pts.

TABLE TENNIS

CHIBA, Japan: World Cup: Semi-finals: J-O Waldner (Sweden) bt Chen Longcan (China), 21-13, 21-23, 21-19, 18-21, 21-18; Ma Wenge (China) bt M Appelgren (Sweden), 21-16, 23-21, 11-21, 19-21, 21-9. Third place: Chen bt Appelgren, 21-15, 20-22, 21-18. Final: Waldner bt Ma, 21-13, 13-21, 21-19, 12-21, 21-17.
EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE: Czecho-

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Philadelphia Flyers 1, New York Rangers 1 (OT); New Jersey Devils 6, Montreal Canadiens 3; Pittsburgh Penguins 4, Minnesota North Stars 1; St Louis Blues 4, Quebec Nordiques 2.

NETBALL

TOUR MATCH: South-East Region 49, Australians 58.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Bridgend 32, South Glamorgan Institute 14; Cambridge University 28, Crawshay's XV 16; Neath 30, Penarth 9; Newbridge 11, South Wales Police 11; Newport 22, Swansea 10; Pontypridd 11, Mid-Districts 8.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Christ's Hospital 3, Hurstpierpoint 7; Ipswich 20, Norwich 0; Oakham 16, Oundle 17; Caldy 0, Wirral 28; Denstone 24, King Edward's, Birmingham 9; Old Swinford Hospital 47, Friary Grange, Lichfield 0; Ratcliffe 15, Lawrence Sheriff 6. Daily Mail Cup: Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol 3, Wellington College 33. 18-group: Cheshire 18, Shropshire 8; Warwickshire 23, Gloucestershire 26.
TOUR MATCHES: Edinburgh Wanderers 17, Gymnasia y Esgrima (Arg) 18; French Selection 33, Namibia 0.

WEIGHTLIFTING

BUDAPEST: World championships: Middleweight (75 kgs): 1, F Kassapu (USSR), snatch 157.5 kg, jerk 202.5, total 360.0; 2, A Socaci (Rom), 155.0, 190.0, 345.0; 3, Y Yordanov (Bul), 155.0, 187.5, 342.5.

Fencers' farewell

East and West Germany's international fencers compete as separate teams for the last time when they take part in an under-20 men's foil competition at Elephant and Castle in London this weekend

IN BRIEF

Sentenced for assault

MARK Rice, of Gordano rugby union club, was jailed for six months yesterday at Bristol Crown Court after striking an opponent in the face during a game in March.

He denied causing grievous bodily harm, but was found guilty on October 17. Immediate sentencing was adjourned pending social enquiry reports.

● Cardiff and Neath have refused to switch the date of their Heineken League match to a Sunday to fit in with the television schedules.

BOXING: The World Boxing Association said it would sanction a bout between the world heavyweight champion, Evander Holyfield, and George Foreman on April 19 in Atlantic City.

● Dennis Andries, the British light-heavyweight, will defend *his World Boxing Council title* against Guy Waters, of Australia, in Adelaide on December 7.

BASEBALL: Bob Welch, of the Oakland A's, who won 27 games, won the Cy Young Award as the best pitcher in the

Baker tells staff to avoid 'impression of neutrality' in battle

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker, the Conservative party chairman, has told his 150 staff that they must not create "an impression of neutrality" in the battle for the Tory leadership.

However, Mr Baker has also made clear that he does not want his staff interfering in the leadership election or disparaging Michael Heseltine's attempt to unseat Margaret Thatcher.

Brendan Bruce, the director of communications at Conservative Central Office, has issued separate rules to the party's press office designed to ensure impartiality in the release of material to the media.

Mr Baker's injunction to his staff was set out in a confidential memorandum sent to them yesterday. It says: "Under no circumstances, will anyone here disparage those opposing the prime ministr's leadership ... But we must not create the impression of neutrality. We are the office of the leader of the party and support her unreservedly ... It is not appropriate for Conservative Central Office to seek to interfere in the parliamentary party exercising its responsibilities."

Mr Bruce explained that just as 10 Downing Street was the office of the prime minister, central office was the office of the leader of the party, any leader of the party. "So obviously her own office supports her."

Mr Bruce said that he had also issued strict rules to his staff about what material the central office press department could release from the close of nominations yesterday until the declaration of the first ballot of the leadership election on Tuesday night.

The disclosures about Mr Baker's advice to staff came after Tory right-wingers failed to oust two incumbent officers of the 18-strong executive of the 1922 committee.

Although no direct parallels can be drawn with the leadership election, the result is likely to reassure Mr Heseltine's supporters.

Dame Jill Knight, the right-wing Conservative MP for Edgbaston, failed in her attempt to oust Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith as a vice chairman of the committee. However the result was close. Sir Geoffrey was returned after a recount.

Robert Dunn, another right winger, failed to unseat Sir Giles Shaw as treasurer of the 1922 committee. At a meeting last night of the full 1922 committee, Cranley Onslow told MPs of the arrangements for next Tuesday's ballot which will be held between 11am and 6pm in committee room 12 at Westminster. The result is expected within about half an hour of the end of polling.

Mr Onslow won support from MPs when he said that he hoped that once the contest was over the party would stand together in seeking to defeat the Labour party.

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Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17
Letters, page 17
Mrs Heseltine, page 20

Call for rule change

MICHAEL Heseltine's challenge to Mrs Thatcher could be the last to a sitting Tory prime minister (Phillip Webster writes). Senior party figures are pressing for rule changes which would allow challenges to the leader only while the party is in opposition.

Members of the executive of the 1922 committee believe that the contests last year and this have been damaging to party morale.

They have argued privately that a prime minister, having been elected by the people, should be turned out only by the electorate at a general election.

Cranley Onslow, chairman of the 1922 committee, said yesterday: "After this contest is over we might well look at it again to see whether the rules are suitable. I can't say what the outcome will be."

A similar review after last year's challenge by Sir Anthony Meyer resulted in proposers and seconders having to identify themselves publicly for the first time. It was thought that this might prevent "stalking horse" challengers from standing.

Voting against policies, not personalities

Peter Davenport reports on the effect a change of Tory leadership might have had in the recent Bradford by-election

IN THE by-election campaign for Bradford North few of the candidates could resist the lure of a photo-opportunity in the picturesque hamlet of Esholt, which doubles as Beckindale in the television soap opera *Emmerdale Farm*.

The programme is watched by millions of viewers and each year 300,000 of them travel to the village on the easterly edge of a constituency that starts in the heart of the inner city.

In the case of Joy Atkin, the Conservative candidate, who was born in Bradford but works in Oxfordshire, it was always going to require more than a photograph outside the Commercial Inn, The Woolpack in the series, to increase her chances. But would Michael Heseltine at the helm have helped?

The feeling among villagers yesterday was that the Conservatives' poor result, coming in third behind the Liberal Democrats and 9,514 votes behind the Labour victor, who secured a swing of 16 per cent, would not have been improved had there been a different leader.

Bryan Hirst, the Commercial landlord for 12 years, said yesterday: "It's always dangerous ground for a publican to talk politics but I don't believe Mr Heseltine would have made a difference. I think Mrs Thatcher herself was a factor in the voting. It may have been what made the party come third rather than second, but in the main it was policies and not personalities that decided the issue for people."

Smiles before tears: Joy Atkin and Kenneth Baker, the Tory party chairman, on last week's campaign trail

At just about the time Mr Heseltine's nomination was being formally lodged, the day's first tourists were waiting for refreshments at the Ashwood tea rooms and gallery. The man behind the counter, who preferred personal and political anonymity, said he did not believe the Conservatives would have done any better with Mr Heseltine than Margaret Thatcher. He did acknowledge, though, that the poll tax was the main grievance — something Mr Heseltine has pledged to reform.

Throughout the by-election campaign Miss Atkin had professed unfailing loyalty to the prime minister and yesterday Valerie Binney, the local Conservative agent, insisted that Mrs Thatcher's personal qualities and leadership style had not been a major factor on the doorstep.

"I don't think that had Michael Heseltine been leader it would have made any significant effect. However, our people are upset that he is challenging the prime minister at this time and they are ringing up to say so.

"One woman rang to say that she had voted for Mrs Thatcher as prime minister at the general election and not Mr Heseltine and that if he brought her down he would have got the office on a false premise.

"Although people recognise he has a lot of good qualities, there are many who are saying that what he is doing is dreadful, awful, and it should not be done to the prime minister at this time."

She said that many Conservative voters, aware they were not going to win the seat, simply stayed at home and that a mixture of disenchantment and lack of motivation kept the party turnout down to about 30 per cent. High interest rates and the poll tax, which is £276 per head in the constituency, were the major issues.

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European press forsake cricket for the jungle

By ALICE THOMSON

ALTHOUGH still somewhat bemused by the cricketing metaphors of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech, the European press has reacted quickly to Michael Heseltine's decision to stand against Margaret Thatcher. Profiles of Mr Heseltine abound and are littered with Tarzan imagery. Newspapers are wary of any outright favouritism but many newspapers believe that the time may have come for Mrs Thatcher to stand down.

Whatever the result of the vote next week Mrs Thatcher's days are numbered, according to the German press. Under the heading, "Tarzan's coming" the *Frankfurter Rundschau* said: "Whether or not Michael Heseltine can convert the shrinking of party loyalties into an election victory is uncertain. What is certain is that Mrs Thatcher will not escape unharmed from the confrontation with Tarzan and that more and more of her former followers are getting used to the thought of living without her."

Helmut Kohl's favourite newspaper, the Munich *Deutsche Zeitung*, said: "Sir Geoffrey rang in the beginning of the end," and the Bonn paper *General Anzeiger* said: "She was hit below the waterline. The only thing we still don't know is when the boat will start sinking."

Mr Heseltine's political philosophy was scrutinised at length in the economic paper *Handelsblatt* and his stance on Europe was commended. "He believes that Great Britain is firmly embedded in Europe and does not hang on to the illusion of a special trans-Atlantic relationship."

In Spain the leadership debate has become feverish and there is no coherent editorial line. *El Mundo* favours Sir Geoffrey Howe as the man designated to topple Mrs Thatcher. According to *Diario-16*, the liberal Madrid daily, Norman Tebbit and John Major may try their luck if the challenge goes into a second round and many London correspondents favour Douglas Hurd.

In one story headlined "The presentation of a new candidate marks the end of a period which stinks of disaster", the independent leftist *El Pais* said that nothing had gone right for Mrs Thatcher in the last year and her popularity had plummeted. "Many MPs fear for their future and in the present every-man-for-himself atmosphere, there are many who want to make Mrs Thatcher pay for wounds of the past."

The Norwegian Labour party newspaper *Arbeiderbladet* notes that Mr Heseltine is a millionaire but adds approvingly: "He has a far more positive attitude to the role of the state than Thatcher and is much more critical of the so-called market."

Unionists change tactics but bitter fight goes on

After five years of opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement, unionists may appear to have lost their edge. But the will to win remains Edward Gorman reports

FIVE years ago this week when Margaret Thatcher and Garret FitzGerald signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the unionist community of Northern Ireland suffered its greatest single set-back since the beginning of the troubles.

The agreement was seen then as an act of gross betrayal by Britain. It was a deal negotiated secretly without consultation with representatives of the majority community in Northern Ireland and, worst of all, it appeared to articulate for the first time unionists' deepest fear; that Britain would some day allow Northern Ireland to slip gently away from the United Kingdom.

It is difficult to convey the insecurity which informs unionist thinking on the agreement. For unionists the troubles are all about nationality and, increasingly, the fear that in spite of their innate Britishness, they remain unwanted by the parent nation and ultimately will be rejected.

In the years since the agreement was signed the most visible element of unionist opposition to it has all but disappeared. The mass demonstrations on the streets of Belfast addressed by Ian Paisley are long gone, and recent attempts to revive them suggest that apathy has set in.

This has led some observers, particularly in the Northern Ireland Office, to conclude that unionists have slowly begun to accept the agreement, to see its benefits in improved Anglo-Irish relations generally, and in cross-border economic and security co-operation. They might believe, as Mrs Thatcher has claimed, that far from jeopardising the territorial integrity of the United Kingdom, the agreement enhances Northern Ireland's status within it and guarantees it, because it makes it explicit.

But unionist determination to get rid of the "diktat" is probably as strong now as it ever was. It was the single-minded pursuit of that objective, for example, which determined the tactics of the two unionist parties in the so-called Brooke initiative. Part of the reason for the apparent breakdown of that process was that while nationalists were approaching inter-party talks with the intention of enhancing their gains made under the agreement, unionists saw the process as a chance to destroy it once and for all.

Among the leading opponents of the agreement is Chris McGimpsey, an east Belfast property developer who, with his brother Michael, a builder, unsuccessfully challenged the validity of the treaty in the Irish Supreme Court earlier this year on the grounds that it was incompatible with the Republic's constitution.

Their case, which is now going to the European Court of Human Rights, produced a landmark judgment by the court which found that articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution enshrining Ireland's territorial claim to Northern Ireland represented not merely an aspiration but a constitutional imperative.

Dr McGimpsey believes that his campaign and that of unionists generally must eventually convince the government of the folly of entering into a treaty with a foreign power committed to the destruction of a part of the United Kingdom. He also vigorously resists the suggestion that unionism has lost its stomach for the fight against the treaty. "Opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement has sunk to the level of an assumption. It is not articulated so much as it used to be and doesn't need to be. If you are not opposed to it, you are not a unionist."

Dr McGimpsey is a member of the Ulster Unionist party executive and may well run for Westminster at the next election. He is regarded as a moderate, liberal-minded spokesman of the soft left fringe of the party who recognises that some form of power sharing in a devolved administration is probably the only way forward for Northern Ireland. But he is determined that no internal settlement of this kind can be contemplated in Belfast until the element of "interference" in Northern Ireland's internal affairs incorporated into the agreement is scrapped.

He claims that the treaty has failed in every major respect. "When it was signed, we were promised peace, stability and reconciliation," he said. "There is now less peace than there was prior to 1985, the situation is more unstable and there is less reconciliation — so it has delivered nothing."

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